



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Intervention in Foreign Exchange Market Debated

Murayama Rejects Move

OW1703045789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0147 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Japanese Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama said Friday morning that the Bank of Japan is not planning to intervene in the Tokyo foreign exchange market, where the U.S. dollar stood at 131.20 yen at the outset of the day's trading.

The opening rate was the highest in Tokyo in five months, since last October 12. Eight major European central banks conducted concerted intervention in the markets on Thursday to prevent the dollar from rising against the West German mark.

Murayama also said he was not concerned about the dollar's upswing against the yen on Friday morning.

He told a regular press conference following a cabinet meeting that he saw no clear factor as a cause for the dollar's uptrend since Thursday.

Bank Official Hints at Action

OW1703045389 Tokyo KYODO in English 0214 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—A Bank of Japan official indicated Friday that the central bank is ready to step into currency markets to stop the further decline in the value of the yen against the U.S. dollar.

The official, who asked not to be named, said market participants are more speculative than ever and stressed the need to be wary of swings in foreign exchange rates.

The U.S. unit opened on the Tokyo foreign exchange market at 131.20 yen for the first time in five months, up 0.47 yen from the previous day's finish.

The official said he doubted the possibility of the yen's further fall, because economic fundamentals of Japan and the United States remain unchanged.

He said U.S. monetary authorities also do not want the U.S. dollar to advance further against the yen.

Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama earlier said that he was not worried about the yen's drop, which encouraged market players to sell more yen, sending the dollar higher to 131.40 yen.

MITI Queries Company on U.S. Takeover Deal

OW1603100189 Tokyo KYODO in English 0902 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has questioned officials of Tokuyama Soda Co. about its planned acquisition of General Ceramics Inc., a medium-sized U.S. manufacturer of ceramic products, a senior MITI official said Thursday.

Hiroshi Sugiyama, a MITI vice minister, told a press conference that the questioning followed a U.S. probe into the pending acquisition by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) under a provision of the 1988 omnibus trade law.

Sugiyama, however, denied a Japanese financial newspaper report that the ministry has asked Tokuyama Soda to alter its takeover plan so as to exclude a General Ceramics military section.

He also said it is not for the government to intervene in a private deal and give specific guidance.

The U.S. investigation was launched early in March under a clause that empowers the U.S. President to probe proposed foreign acquisitions of U.S. firms and, if necessary, to block those transactions that could threaten to impair U.S. national security, MITI officials said.

General Ceramics, based in Hasell, New Jersey, is said to manufacture ceramic beryllium components that are used in producing nuclear weapons, they said.

A statement issued by Senator James Exon of Nebraska claims that the U.S. firm has a classified contract with the Oak Ridge Y-12 plant, which is identified as an Energy Department defense-related facility where plutonium is refined for use in nuclear warheads, the officials said.

Tokuyama Soda and General Ceramics reached a tentative agreement in January, under which the former will purchase all 3.3 million shares of the latter for 18 dollars per share. The acquisition will cost some 59 million dollars.

The officials said that there is not yet an international consensus that mergers and acquisitions should be banned for national security reasons and that a wider interpretation of national security would lead to protectionism.

Yasuharu Onoue, president of Tokuyama Soda, said in a statement that the company has not received any directive or advice from the Japanese Government to alter the tentative agreement.

The statement also said the company will keep a close eye on the outcome of the U.S. investigation and will decide on the matter of its own will, if necessary through consultations with MITI and other ministries.

The CFIUS is expected to complete its investigation by April 17, the officials said.

Agricultural Vice Minister To Visit U.S.
*OW1703051789 Tokyo KYODO in English 0421 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Tsutomu Hata said Friday that the ministry is planning to send a top official to the U.S. next week to have talks with agriculture and trade officials.

Vice Minister for International Affairs Hideto Maki will meet U.S. Agriculture Secretary Clayton Yeutter and Trade Representative Carla Hills, Hata said.

They are expected to exchange views ahead of the sub-cabinet-level multilateral trade talks scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland in early April as part of the ongoing Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), ministry officials said.

Opposition Agrees To Pass 17 Urgent Bills
*OW1603131089 Tokyo KYODO in English 1205 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and three major opposition parties agreed Thursday on a speedy debate and passage of 17 urgent legislative bills now before the Diet despite the current parliamentary stalemate.

The opposition has boycotted Diet business, demanding that former Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone be summoned to testify in the Diet over his alleged role in the Recruit bribery scandal.

Diet business has come to a complete halt since March 8, blocking the passage of the budget for fiscal 1989, which begins on April 1.

In a compromise, Diet committee chairmen of the LDP and the Japan Socialist Party, Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party met and agreed to resume debate next Wednesday on the 17 urgent bills.

These bills would greatly affect the people's life and suspend ongoing major projects if they were not passed by the end of the current fiscal year on March 31.

The party representatives agreed that 16 of the 17 urgent bills should be cleared in the Diet on March 29.

The opposition, however, said the remaining one regarding the review of various government subsidies requires a careful deliberation.

They finally agreed that the House of Representatives will discuss the bill April 3-4 and the House of Councilors April 5-6.

Thus, a showdown between the ruling and opposition parties over Nakasone's Diet testimony would come on April 7 or later mainly at the lower house Budget Committee.

The parties have already agreed to pass through the Diet later this month a 10 trillion yen stopgap budget for the first 50 days of the next fiscal year.

TV Poll Shows Support for Takeshita at Lowest
*OW1603125489 Tokyo NHK General Television Network
in Japanese 1000 GMT 16 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] According to an NHK opinion poll held early this month, only 16 percent of those surveyed were of the opinion that the Takeshita cabinet was doing an adequate job. That is less than half the percentage of approximately half a year ago. Also, this figure is the lowest percentage supporting any cabinet recorded by NHK since it started this opinion poll in 1978.

NHK interviewed 1,800 people, both male and female aged 20 or over, across the country from 4 to 8 March. The survey was titled "Daily Life and Politics," and the responses of 1,290 people, or 71.7 percent, were accepted as valid.

In this poll, 16 percent of those interviewed thought the Takeshita cabinet was good or satisfactory, 78 percent said it was poor or deserved no praise whatsoever, and 5 percent said they were not sure or did not answer. The percentage in favor of the Takeshita cabinet—16 percent—is 20 percentage points less than in an NHK survey conducted last October. It is also the lowest rating in support of a cabinet that NHK has recorded since it began such polls in November, 1978. Conversely, the portion dissatisfied with the current administration—78 percent—is the highest NHK has recorded. [passage omitted]

Respondents were asked to choose as many items as they wished from a 15-item list of things for which the Takeshita administration could be praised or criticized. As for areas that it could be praised for, 9 percent chose foreign policy and 8 percent chose the economy. As for areas the administration should be criticized for, 37 percent chose political stance, 36 percent tax reform, and 26 percent political ethics. The figures indicate a rather high public dissatisfaction over the Recruit stock scandal and the introduction of the consumption tax.

As to what political party they support, 42.3 percent said they supported the ruling LDP [Liberal Democratic Party], 16 percent the Socialist Party, 2.9 percent Komeito, 3.4 percent the Democratic Socialist Party, 2.2 percent the Communist Party, 0.4 percent the United Social Democratic Party, 0.5 percent other political parties, and 29.3 percent said they did not support any party in particular. As compared with past surveys, the proportion of those supporting the LDP was 5.8 percentage points lower than in the survey held in October last year. This is the lowest rate of support for the LDP since the 41.8 percent recorded in a survey in February, 1983, when Yasuhiro Nakasone was prime minister. [passage omitted]

People were also asked if the lower house should be dissolved for the holding of a general election to regain public confidence in politics which was lost because of the Recruit scandal and the introduction of the consumption tax. Among those surveyed, 70 percent said they supported the idea and 15 percent said they did not. A similar question was asked in the last survey in connection with the consumption tax only. In the recent survey, the proportion of people favoring the dissolution of the lower house increased by 34 percentage points and the proportion of those who were against the idea fell by 23 percentage points. Among supporters of opposition parties, 84 percent said they wanted the lower house to be dissolved for the purpose of holding a general election as did 62 percent of the LDP supporters.

Chile Detains Boats in Retaliation for Fruit Ban
*OW1703064089 Tokyo KYODO in English 0606 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, March 16 KYODO—The Chilean Navy said Thursday it had detained five Japanese fishing boats in port in retaliation for Japan's ban on imports of Chilean grapes.

Navy Commander in Chief Admiral Jose Toribio Merino warned that no Japanese fishing would be allowed in the 200-mile Chilean economic waters until Japan lifts its embargo on imports of Chilean fruit.

The navy banned any activities in the Chilean economic waters by nations that embargoed imports from Chile, ordered all Japanese fishing boats operating in Chile's 200-mile economic waters to call into port and said their fishing licenses would be taken away.

Japanese [as received] is the only foreign nation actively engaged in fishing in the seas off the Chilean coast.

The navy also ordered that those boats already docked for maintenance not be allowed to leave port until Japan resumes imports from Chile, navy sources said.

The sources said the navy has suspended giving clearance permits to an unknown number of Japanese fishing boats currently docked at the ports of Valparaiso, Talcahuano and Punta Arenas.

Japan, the United States, Canada and European nations stopped importing Chilean fruit earlier this week after two cyanide-tainted grapes were discovered in Philadelphia.

The Japanese Ministry of Health and Welfare on Tuesday said it has decided to suspend imports of Chilean grapes for the time being and call on domestic business to stop sales of already imported grapes.

Chile is expected to lose 850 million dollars as a result of the embargo on its fruit by these nations.

The five detained boats belong to Taiyo Chile, a joint of [as received] Taiyo Fishery Co. of Tokyo and a local concern. The crew members aboard the five ships were reported to be mostly Chilean.

The Japanese Embassy in Chile said they have not received any official statement from the Chilean Government on the matter.

Government Denies Ships Being Held
*OW1703064489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0610 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—The Japanese Government on Friday denied press reports that Chile has detained five Japanese fishing boats in retaliation for Japan's embargo on imports of Chilean grapes.

The Foreign Ministry, quoting reports from the Japanese Embassy in Santiago, said Chile has instructed one Japanese fishing boat to enter port for safety checks.

Unusually strict checks have kept another Japanese fishing vessel in port, officials said.

The officials said they did not know whether those checks in Chile are linked with Japan's decision asking traders not to import Chilean grapes.

After cyanide-contaminated Chilean grapes were discovered in Philadelphia earlier this week, the Ministry of Health and Welfare urged traders and dealers not to import or sell Chilean fruit for the time being.

Meanwhile, the fisheries agency said it has instructed Japanese fishing vessels operating near Chile not to enter Chilean ports for replenishment of supplies.

Three Japanese-Chilean joint firms currently operate six trawlers fishing in Chile's 200-mile zone.

Uno, Shevardnadze To Meet in Moscow 3-4 May
OW1703034689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Foreign Ministers Sosuke Uno of Japan and Eduard Shevardnadze of the Soviet Union will meet in Moscow on May 3 and 4, a top-level Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

This will be Uno's third meeting with Shevardnadze in less than five months, following ones in Tokyo last December and in Paris in January.

Uno will leave Tokyo on April 29, the official said.

A detailed itinerary is not set.

Uno hopes to stop in Beijing on his way home from Moscow and meet with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, the official said.

Takeshita Briefs Kissinger on USSR Stance
OW1703085489 Tokyo KYODO in English 0718 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita met former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger on Friday and told him that Japan has been taking a "realistic approach" toward the Soviet Union, a Foreign Ministry official said.

During the 35-minute talks at the prime minister's official residence, Takeshita told Kissinger that his remarks on the territorial dispute between the two countries was carried in a Soviet newspaper without deletion.

Kissinger was quoted as saying he is convinced Japan should positively participate in all kinds of political dialogue.

The former U.S. secretary of state, who has been here to attend a symposium on East-West relations, said North Korea will have to take the same stance toward the Soviet Union and China because Moscow and Beijing will become closer after Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev visits China, the official said.

Kissinger said North Korea will seriously consider the relaxation of tension in the Korean peninsula and added that South Korea should take the initiative in the relaxation of tension there.

Uno To Visit MPR, PRC After Moscow Trip
OW1703112389 Tokyo KYODO in English 1102 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno will go to Mongolia and China in early May following a scheduled visit to the Soviet Union, Foreign Ministry officials said Friday.

Uno will be the first Japanese foreign minister to visit Mongolia since Japan and Mongolia established diplomatic ties in February 1972.

Leaving Tokyo on April 29, Uno will first visit Soviet Georgia, the native place of Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, before flying to Moscow, the officials said. A detailed itinerary has not yet been set, however.

Uno will meet Shevardnadze in Moscow on May 3 and 4. It will be Uno's third meeting with Shevardnadze in less than five months, following ones in Tokyo in December and in Paris in January.

In China, the foreign minister will brief his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen on the outcome of his talks with Shevardnadze.

Meanwhile, Japan and the United States will hold a high-level consultation in Washington on March 27 to discuss international political affairs, the officials said.

Deputy Foreign Minister Takakazu Kuriyama will lead a Japanese delegation at the session, while Robert Kimmitt, undersecretary of state for political affairs, will head the U.S. team.

Fishing Violations in Soviet Zone Alleged
OW1703070289 Tokyo KYODO in English 0629 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—The Fisheries Agency has ordered all the 27 Japanese fishing boats operating in the Soviet 200-mile zone to return to their ports, agency officials said Friday.

The order came in response to Soviet complaints that eight Japanese fishing boats are operating off the Chishima Islands in the North Pacific in violation of a Japan-Soviet fishery agreement, they said.

The Soviet Union, in a notification sent to the agency with photos taken from an airplane, said that the Japanese boats are illegally operating with their identification hidden by cloth in areas not allowed under the accord, the officials said.

The official said the Soviet allegations are being taken seriously as they came at a time when negotiations are now under way in Moscow between the two countries over this year's salmon fishing in the North Pacific.

The agency will launch a probe quickly into the Soviet complaints so that they will not affect the ongoing negotiations, they said.

Under the bilateral fishing accord, Japanese fishing in the Soviet 200-mile zone is strictly regulated in regard to operating areas and catch quotas.

Senior Albanian Officials To Visit Next Week
*OW1703072889 Tokyo KYODO in English 0638 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Albanian Vice Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani and Vice Foreign Trade Minister Kostandin Hoxha will make a week-long visit to Japan starting from Wednesday [22 March] next week, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

They will be the first high-ranking officials from Albania to visit Japan since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1981.

While in Japan, the two Albanian vice ministers will meet Japanese senior officials, including Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno and Vice Foreign Minister Ryohei Murata.

PRC's Li Peng Slated To Visit in April
*OW1703010689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0035 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and his wife Zhu Lin will make an official visit to Japan from April 12 to 16, the Foreign Ministry said Friday.

During his five-day stay, Li will meet Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on the afternoon of April 12 and have an audience with Emperor Akihito on the morning of April 13. He will also have a press conference on the afternoon of April 14.

The Chinese premier will visit the new bridge linking Honshu and Shikoku Islands over the Seto Inland Sea on the morning of April 15 and leave Fukuoka International Airport for home on the afternoon of April 16.

Takeshita and Li are expected to exchange views on bilateral and economic relations, especially Japanese investments and transfers of advanced technology to China.

Emperor Declined Deng Xiaoping's Invitation
*OW1503175589 Tokyo KYODO in English 1507 GMT
15 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—China's supreme leader Deng Xiaoping had invited the late Emperor Hirohito to China in October 1978 during his visit to Japan as vice premier, Foreign Ministry sources said Wednesday.

They said Emperor Hirohito, posthumously called Emperor Showa, gave no clear response to the invitation offered directly by Deng, and the Japanese Government has also made no comment on the matter since then.

The sources declined to state any reason for not responding to the invitation offered when Deng was attending a ratification ceremony in Tokyo for the Japan-Sino Peace and Friendship Treaty.

It has been reported that Emperor Showa mentioned to Deng "an unfortunate incident" existed in the long history of bilateral relations, while Deng was reported to have said let bygones be bygones. Neither of them made any official announcement about an invitation.

The sources speculate that China may extend an invitation to Emperor Akihito when he meets Premier Li Peng, who will visit Japan on April 12.

A government source reportedly said Tuesday that South Korean President No Tae-u is likely to request the imperial couple to visit South Korea when he visits Japan in late May.

Forum Proposes Northern Asia Stability Policy
*OW1603023489 Tokyo KYODO in English 1215 GMT
15 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—A Foreign Ministry-affiliated forum called on Wednesday for sustaining security measures and promoting talks between conflicting forces in northern Asia to establish stability there.

The Japan Forum on International Relations Inc. put forth what it describes as a "dual track" policy which contains a 12-point proposal on gradual transition toward a "long-term political vision for stabilization and cooperation in northern Asia."

Former Foreign Minister Saburo Okita, who is the chairman of the forum, told a press conference he handed the report on the policy proposal earlier in the day to Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi, who accepted it on behalf of Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita.

While acknowledging the importance of U.S. presence in the region for some time, the report argued for promotion of talks between the region's members who have conflict of interests.

Citing the multiple nature of tensions in the region, unlike the East-West confrontation in Europe, the forum said detente in northern Asia needs three principles: separation of issues between major powers from those characteristic of the region, building cooperative economic and technological relations, and a cumulative series of negotiations to solve problems one at a time.

The forum supported a conference between the United States, Japan, China, the Soviet Union and North and South Korea, proposed last fall by South Korean President No Tae-u, as one measure for relaxing tension.

It also suggested as another tension-relaxing measure the encouraging of North Korea to participate in existing international military agreements.

The forum, comprising prominent economists, businessmen, academicians, journalists and critics, called for the creation of an international situation favorable to a solution of the Japan-Soviet territorial dispute which it said has hindered improvements in Japan-Soviet relations.

The forum also said that the twin goals of security and tension-reduction were complementary, and urged Japan and the U.S. to increase the reliability of their alliance to achieve these goals.

The forum was set up in April 1987 to give policy recommendations on foreign affairs.

It took more than a year to produce the report, during which its members went to the U.S. and South Korea to study the current situations in the respective nations, Okita said.

The forum's first policy recommendation was announced in March 1988 on "the structural adjustment of the economics of Japan, U.S. and Asian NICs [Newly Industrialized Countries]."

Foreign Ministry Official on DPRK Policy
OW1603111989 Tokyo KYODO in English 0934 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Japan will persist in its overtures to North Korea [DPRK] despite repeated verbal rebukes from Pyongyang, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

"We cannot force them...We will wait and continue a consistent policy," said Hitoshi Tanaka, director of the ministry's Northeast Asia Division.

Tanaka spoke to reporters in a special presentation prefacing former Japan Socialist Party (JSP) General Secretary Makoto Tanabe's scheduled visit to Pyongyang from March 31 to April 5.

North Korea has verbally lashed Japan for what it perceives as a "hostile policy" adopted toward Pyongyang and called on Tokyo to discontinue its favoritism of South Korea.

Japan, meanwhile, has called on Pyongyang to release two Japanese sailors held captive there since November 1983 on espionage charges, while North Korea is demanding the repatriation of a defected soldier.

Japan, which supports South Korean President No Tae-u's policy of promoting an end to Pyongyang's isolation from the international community, has denied its policy is hostile or aimed at rigidifying the division of the peninsula.

"I think they will have to move but the question is when they'll move," Tanaka said on Pyongyang's reticence, adding that reconciliation will have to be "based upon the will of both Japanese and North Koreans."

"Probably, when North Korea thinks about a relationship with Japan, it cannot dissociate the question of past history from the future relationship," Tanaka noted.

He said Japan must work to overcome "a very sharp feeling against the Japanese" on the peninsula arising from Japan's 36-year colonization.

Tanaka said former JSP leader Tanabe will likely pass on a new appeal from the government to open up direct talks and pave the way for a visit to Pyongyang by a delegation from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) by the end of the year.

On the opposition party member's calls on the government to clarify its position with regard to Japan's historical record on the peninsula, Tanaka said the government has already acknowledged "inflicting damage" and is pursuing "a peaceful policy based on that realization."

He said that while not signaling a departure from basic policy the government has adopted a new approach to "tackle various questions caused by the past history," adding that that approach applies equally to North Korea as to the south.

"We have been pursuing a consistent policy of impressing upon them that we are open-minded," he said. "We are prepared to sit down and talk with North Korea about any aspect of our relationship."

He mentioned Japan has already moved forward by lifting sanctions imposed after the 1987 KAL [Korean Airlines] bombing incident and allowing entry of a North Korean labor delegation that engaged in political activities, something he said would have been "unthinkable a few years ago."

"We would like to see a moderate policy adopted on the part of North Korea and in order to achieve this we would like to bring North Korea into the international community," he said.

Tanaka praised South Korean President No for "trying very hard to establish a democratic process" in South Korea, and said his visit to Japan in late May will ring in "a new era" in Tokyo's relations with Seoul.

"We attach great importance to the state visit by President No since this is going to be the first by a foreign head of state to Japan in the new era." He said this in reference to the imperial era which began after Emperor Showa's death on January 7.

ROK Foreign Minister To Visit in Early April
*OW1603141489 Tokyo KYODO in English 1249 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—South Korean [ROK] Foreign Minister Choe Ho-Chung is scheduled to make his first visit to Japan around April 1 for talks with his Japanese counterpart Sosuke Uno, a high-ranking Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

Choe and Uno are expected to discuss arrangements for the visit of South Korean President No Tae-u to Tokyo on May 24. The North-South Korean dialogue and South Korea's widening trade ties with the socialist bloc are also likely topics.

The two ministers met once before in Paris on January 8.

Paper Views Relations With Burmese Government
*BK1303013189 Bangkok THE NATION in English
13 Mar 89 p 2*

[By THE NATION's Regional Desk]

[Text] Japan, which surprised many countries with its announcement to extend diplomatic recognition to Burma's Saw Maung government last month, is poised to resume its frozen aid to that country.

"But we have committed no fresh assistance commitments," a senior Bangkok-based Japanese diplomat told THE NATION recently.

A diplomatic source said Japan's decision to recognize the Saw Maung regime was partly influenced by Thailand's policy toward Burma which saw a series of visits by senior Thai officials to Rangoon in recent months.

The first, and probably the most significant move which was seen as helping to break the diplomatic isolation of Burma, was by Army Commander in Chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut last December. The trip was followed by those of other senior Thai officials.

The source insisted that Japan apparently had not consulted any other country before announcing recognition of the Saw Maung regime which was brought to power in a bloody coup last September. He admitted that the regime's announcement of an election timetable was another reason behind Tokyo's decision which has been criticized by pro-democracy Burmese.

The source said by recognizing the Rangoon regime, Japan will be able to establish a formal channel of communications with Burmese authorities. "The Japanese hope to use that channel to push for democratic reforms in Burma," said the source.

The Japanese believe that there are many "conscientious people" in the Saw Maung government who are democratically minded and are probably receptive to advice.

A Japanese diplomat said it was inevitable that some critics would view Japan's move as one geared towards commercial purposes. "That's a problem with our image even though our motives were purely political," he said.

The diplomat explained that Japan, unlike such countries as the United States and Thailand, faced the dilemma of having to decide whether to recognize the Burmese Government or not while other countries, which simply recognize "states and not governments" do not have to cope with that problem.

Japan has a staff of about 10-15 people at its embassy in Rangoon and since the announcement of the diplomatic recognition, the Japanese ambassador has reportedly been meeting Burmese people both in the government and the opposition to discuss the present situation in Burma.

By renewing recognition, an official of the Japanese Foreign Ministry said recently Japan would partially resume its financial aid to the impoverished country and make good on a 9.1 billion yen (US\$72 million) grant and the 12.5 billion yen (US\$99 million) it had originally promised in development assistance.

But the source said Japan has no plans to offer new assistance projects in Burma and future aid will be closely monitored to make sure that it helps contribute to the economy. A cement and a power plant are among the major projects in Burma that are aided by Japan.

"The Japanese want to make sure that its aid to Burma is properly administered," the source said, adding that much of the Japanese aid to Burma in the past was not used in a way that it would help improve the country's economy.

The source said Saw Maung has made an "international commitment" with a promise to hold elections. The source said though the Japanese still have doubts, they believe Saw Maung has no choice but to hold the promised elections in order to win international recognition.

The Rangoon government two weeks ago published a draft law for the first multi-party elections in 25 years but both diplomats and opposition leaders said they were skeptical whether they would be democratic.

Mexican Finance Minister Arrives in Tokyo
*OW1603034189 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT
15 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 15 KYODO—Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe flew into Tokyo on Wednesday for 4 days of talks with Japanese Government leaders to renegotiate his country's foreign debt and discuss a new U.S. debt-relief proposal after 2 days of talks with U.S. officials in Washington.

While in Tokyo until Saturday, he will meet Finance Minister Tatsuo Murayama, Foreign Minister Sosuke Uno, and Bank of Japan Governor Satoshi Sumita, Japanese officials said.

Seeks Financial Assistance
*OW1603125989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Visiting Mexican Finance Minister Pedro Aspe Armella urged Japan Thursday to extend official loans in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

Aspe made the request during a meeting with his Japanese counterpart Tatsuo Murayama, Japanese Finance Ministry officials said.

Murayama told Aspe that Japan will consider providing Export-Import Bank [Eximbank] of Japan loans together with the two international organizations if Mexico agrees with the IMF on a medium-term economic adjustment program at their ongoing negotiations, the officials said.

Japan unveiled a plan on such syndicated Eximbank lending with the IMF and World Bank at a joint annual meeting of the two international agencies in West Berlin last September to help ease the financial burden of indebted countries.

Aspe arrived in Tokyo Wednesday for a four-day visit to seek Japanese support for Mexico's debt relief following a new global debt strategy announced by U.S. Commerce Secretary Nicholas Brady last week.

Senior Eximbank officials earlier mentioned Mexico as one of [the] prospective recipients of such loans.

Mexico had outstanding external debt of 107.4 billion dollars at the end of 1988, around 12 billion dollars of the total with Japan.

Aspe is scheduled to confer with Bank of Japan and Eximbank officials Friday.

MITI Approves Cuts in Electricity, Gas Rates
*OW1703051689 Tokyo KYODO in English 0307 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 17 KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) gave permission Friday for electricity and gas utilities to cut their rates from April 1.

The approval was formalized at a meeting of economic affairs-related ministries and agencies, and representatives of utility firms were notified, MITI officials said.

The new rates are scheduled to come into effect when the current taxes on gas and electricity are abolished due to the introduction on April 1 of a 3 percent consumption tax. The tax on electricity is at present 5 percent and that on gas is 2 percent.

The ministry gave approval for 10 power utility firms to cut their electricity rates by a net 4.9 percent and three major gas firms—Tokyo Gas Co., Toho Gas Co. and Osaka Gas Co.—to lower their gas rates by a net 3.1 percent.

The utility rate cuts also reflect cost readjustments stemming mainly from crude oil prices and the yen-dollar exchange rate, they said.

The new rates are based on the assumption that crude oil prices will average 16.50 dollars per barrel in fiscal 1989, compared with the projected 18.50 dollars per barrel in the current fiscal year.

The exchange rate is expected to average 124 yen to the U.S. dollar in fiscal 1989, beginning April 1, down from the current fiscal year's 139 yen.

MITI is also expected to endorse plans by 243 local gas firms and local government-run gas corporations to cut their rates by an average 1.02 percent, they added.

Agriculture Minister Urges Study on Farm Prices
*OW1603044089 Tokyo KYODO in English 0249 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Tokyo, March 16 KYODO—Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Tsutomu Hata on Thursday urged an advisory panel to study cuts in government-controlled producers' prices for beef, pork, and milk.

At a general meeting of the panel, the Livestock Promotion Council, Hata said in a prepared speech that the price differences between foreign and domestic products should be narrowed by the agriculture industry's efforts to reduce production costs.

Hata called on the council to examine the supply-demand balance of milk, beef, and pork when deciding the producers' price for milk and the wholesale prices for beef and pork.

The ministry, in line with the plan, is expected to decide on a 3 to 5 percent cut in the producers' price of milk, and a 1 to 5 percent price reduction for beef, ministry sources said.

The markdown, if implemented, would be the fourth in as many years, they said.

However, most farm households are strongly opposed to the price reduction, saying such reduced prices of beef and milk, as well as the recent U.S.-Japan agreement of liberalization of beef imports, would damage Japan's agriculture industry, farming industry sources said.

Some ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) members are also said to favor the farmers' views ahead of this summer's House of Councillors election, the sources said.

Sub-panel meetings are scheduled to be held on March 28 to 29 to work out concrete ways to implement the price reduction, ministry officials said.

International Ozone Fund With U.S. Eyed
OW1603054289 Tokyo KYODO in English 1121 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—Top Japanese and American environment officials are to discuss establishment of a special fund to help developing countries phase out the use of ozone-destroying chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) when they meet in May, a government source said Tuesday.

The fund is also expected to be discussed at the economic summit of leaders of seven major industrialized democracies when in Paris in July, the sources said.

Japan and U.S. officials held their first discussions about launching the international fund at an environmental conference in London, at which China and other Third World countries proposed that rich nations assist poorer countries in introducing replacements for CFCs.

If the fund is realized, developing countries would be better positioned to join the industrialized world in phasing out CFCs, possibly by the end of this century.

According to a treaty signed in Montreal in 1987, signatories are to halve CFC production by the end of the century.

But recently scientists and government officials in Europe and North America have suggested that the chemicals, which are widely used as refrigerator coolants, aerosol propellants, and to clean computer components, should be completely eliminated.

The stratospheric ozone layer located 25-40 kilometers above the earth blocks dangerous ultraviolet rays, which cause skin cancer among humans and genetic damage to other living organisms.

Court Rejects JCP Complaint Against Police
OW1603012489 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Tokyo, March 14 KYODO—The Supreme Court Tuesday rejected a plea by a senior Japan Communist Party [JCP] official to indict police officials he says wiretapped his home.

The bugging three years ago was not found to be an abuse of authority, the top court said.

The Supreme Court upheld similar rulings by lower courts favoring four officers, who include Police Sergeant Masatoshi Kubo, 47, and Patrolman Keiji Hayashi, 34, of the Kanagawa Prefectural Police Headquarters.

Yasuo Ogata, chief of the Communist Party's International Bureau complained to local public prosecutors that the officials abused their authority when they tapped his home phone from a nearby rented apartment. In an August 1987 judgment, prosecutors rejected Ogata's allegation.

The JCP official then appealed to the Tokyo inquest of the prosecution panel of private citizens, saying the prosecution erred in failing to indict the police officials.

Subsequent rejection of his appeal by the Tokyo District Court and the High Court prompted him to bring the case to the Supreme Court.

In a statement issued Tuesday, the JCP termed the top court decision irresponsible and nonsense, a ruling that can never convince the nation, as well as his party.

They party will appeal to public opinion until it can win indemnity from the state, the JCP said.

The Kanagawa Prefecture Police Headquarters declined to comment on the decision, saying it is in no position to discuss the ruling.

Mongolia

Soviet Tank, Aircraft Divisions To Be Withdrawn
LD1503174689 Moscow Tass International Service in Russian 1705 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] Moscow, 15 Mar (TASS)—In accordance with an agreement between the Governments of the USSR and the Mongolian People's Republic, three full-strength divisions, including two tank divisions, two aircraft divisions, and a number of individual units will be

withdrawn from Mongolia to the Soviet Union in 1989-90. Of these divisions, one tank division and several individual units, including aircraft units, will be withdrawn in May-August 1989.

Gen Jadambaa Comments on Troop Pullout
OW1603161189 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1448 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 16 Mar (MONTSAME)—The withdrawal of Soviet troops presently in the country will begin this May at the request of the Mongolian Government, said Lieutenant General J. Jadambaa, chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces, who spoke at a news conference held at the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] Ministry of Defense. As previously announced, the withdrawal will continue into next year as well and will involve some 75 percent of all Soviet troops that are temporarily deployed on Mongolian territory. Five tank and aviation divisions, as well as several military units will be withdrawn.

The Mongolian and Soviet Armies are bonded by close combat brotherhood and are tested by many years of joint struggle in the defense of the interests of our country. The return of Soviet troops to their motherland will be held under solemn conditions. We are confident that, as before, should the need arise, the Soviet Army will again extend their helping hand in accordance with the provisions of the 1966 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Aid between the MPR and the USSR.

The present withdrawal of a significant part of Soviet troops from Mongolia is regarded by us as our contribution to the cause of strengthening the atmosphere of confidence and cooperation between states, the Mongolian general noted.

Further Comments on Batmonh's India Visit

Official Briefs Press
OW1503230889 Ulaanbaatar International Service
in English 0910 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] A press conference was held at the Mongolian Foreign Ministry on the outcome of the state visit made by President Batmonh to India upon the invitation of Indian President Venkataraman.

Addressing the Mongolian and foreign journalists, department head of the Foreign Ministry Mr (Dabaagib) expressed the full satisfaction of the Mongolian side with the outcome of this visit, which marked a new stage in the [word indistinct] of traditional friendly relations between the two countries and opened new prospects for the development of Mongolian-Indian cooperation.

Daily Cites 'New Impetus' to Ties
OW1703025189 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1430 GMT 13 Mar 89

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 13 Mar (MONTSAME)—The state visit of J. Batmonh, general secretary of the MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee and chairman of the Presidium of the MPR [Mongolian People's Republic] People's Great Hural, to the Republic of India gave new impetus to the development and expansion of traditionally friendly relations of the two countries, says the newspaper HODOLMOR in a commentary on the results of this visit.

During their meetings the leaders of the two countries expressed satisfaction over the expansion of friendly Mongolian-Indian relations in accordance with the principles and spirit of the joint declaration of 1973, the paper notes.

In his speech at a dinner in honor of J. Batmonh, R. Venkataraman, president of India, assessed the signing of the 1973 joint Mongolian-Indian declaration as a major event in the relations of the two countries, which not only affirmed the principles of peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, but also laid the basis of mutual consultations between the two countries in the framework of the United Nations and other international organizations.

In his speech J. Batmonh noted that the MPR attaches great significance to further developing fruitful cooperation in the spheres of culture, science, education, health, and agriculture, which began in recent years. The MPR party and state head told the Indian leaders that the MPR welcomes and supports India's active struggle to create a world free of nuclear weapons and violence and strives to promote the implementation of the 1986 Soviet-Indian declaration which expresses this noble aim.

The signed joint Mongolian-Indian communique on the results of the visit fully reflected the desire of the two countries to elevate traditional contacts and friendly ties of our countries to a new level, the paper notes.

MPRP Delegation Returns From Vietnam, Laos
OW1703091989 Ulaanbaatar MONTSAME in Russian
1457 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Ulaanbaatar, 16 Mar (MONTSAME)—A delegation of party workers headed by G. Chingel, chief of an MPRP [Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party] Central Committee department, returned home today. It was in the SRV and LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] to exchange party work experience in accordance with a plan for interparty cooperation.

The MPRP delegation headed by G. Chingel took part in the work of the 14th Congress of the Communist Party of India.

North Korea

Groups Continue To Denounce 'Team Spirit'

Talks Delegation's Statement

SK1703123689 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2100 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the North delegation to preliminary talks for a pannational meeting on 16 March 1989—read by announcer]

[Text] In South Korea today the U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities are openly kicking up war provocation noise that run counter to detente, peace, and dialogue.

As has already been learned, the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets, who have been deploying armed forces in South Korea since the end of January without any official announcement in defiance of the unanimous protest and denunciation of people at home and abroad, finally entered the stage of a full-dress, offensive mobilization which constitutes the climax of the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise.

This is an intolerable insult to us, who have made every possible sincere effort to continuously develop the situation of dialogue which has been favorably developed in our country; it is also an undisguised challenge to all fellow countrymen and the world's peace-loving people who desire peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification.

Considering the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities who are pushing ahead with the adventurous "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise to be an aggressive, antinational criminal act that gravely threatens peace in the country and blocks dialogue, the North side's delegation to preliminary talks for a pannational meeting sternly denounces these maneuvers in the name of the entire nation.

By thwarting preliminary talks for a pannational meeting yesterday with the support of the U.S. imperialists and by pushing ahead with the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise today, the South Korean authorities have revealed they object to detente and dialogue and seek only confrontation and tension.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities blocked with bayonets the preliminary talks for a pannational meeting slated for 1 March. This is a criminal act which no reason or excuse can justify.

A pannational meeting, which has been placed on the schedule as the National Coalition of the Movement for Democracy and the Nation [Chonminnyon] proposed in order to promote national reconciliation and unity and achieve peace in the country and peaceful reunification

and as we have responded to its proposal, is a nationwide dialogue forum to expedite the peaceful reunification of the country by pooling the opinions of the entire nation.

The South Korean authorities, who in their 7 July declaration last year committed themselves to actively push ahead with mutual exchanges between compatriots from all walks of life in the North and the South, should not hamper the convocation of a pannational meeting even though they are not providing help. Nor should there be any excuse for blocking a pannational meeting with bayonets.

This notwithstanding, on 1 March the South Korean authorities, who had threatened to block the Chonminnyon delegation's activities while viewing them as unsound, perpetrated, under the direct involvement of the U.S. wretches, the fascist tyranny of not only using bayonets to bar Chonminnyon figures and its delegation from preliminary talks on their way to Panmunjom but also of coercively walking off 28 people and booking 10 of them, including Chonminnyon advisers Messrs Kye Hun-che and Paek Ki-wan, on charges of violating the National Security Law under the brigandish pretext of their attempt to hold a so-called antistate organization.

If the Chonminnyon delegation's attempt to sit face to face with us violates the National Security Law, does not the South Korean authorities' act, who held or are holding direct talks with us, constitute a crime?

All facts show that so-called dialogue or national community about which the South Korean authorities are talking is nothing but a sophism designed to deceive the South Korean people and hide their splittist and fascist nature.

The United States and the South Korean authorities are pushing ahead with the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise again this year, suppressing democratic forces for reunification while ignoring the entire nation's ardent aspirations for detente, dialogue, and reunification. There is no other purpose for this. Their aim is to cope with the crises facing the shaking military dictatorial regime by threatening and blackmailing, with the force of arms, the South Korean people who demand independence, democracy, and reunification and to maintain South Korea as a U.S. colonial military base.

However, the United States and the South Korean authorities must clearly recognize that none of their military threats or fascist suppression can block the struggle of the South Korean people for independence, democracy, and reunification.

The Korean peninsula is being led to the brink of war because of the reckless U.S. imperialists and South Korean authorities' military provocation maneuvers.

To counter the grave situation prevailing in our country, the Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme commander has issued an order to all KPA and Korean People's Security Forces units and all Red Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Young Guard members to assume a combat mobilization posture with a high degree of revolutionary vigilance. This is an extremely just self-defensive measure.

The South Korean authorities should not perpetrate the act of playing with fire—a foolish flunkeyist and treacherous act of opposing fellow countrymen and blocking dialogue and reunification by introducing the U.S. aggression Armed Forces. The United States must immediately stop the aggressive "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise and withdraw U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

If the South Korean authorities are genuinely willing to hold dialogue with us, they should allow multichannelled civilian-level dialogue, including a pannational meeting, and abolish such anticommunist fascist evil laws barring dialogue, contact, cooperation, and exchange as the National Security Law.

If the South Korean authorities turn away from our just demands, persist in the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise, and block preliminary talks for a pannational meeting, they will be held totally responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

No Talks During Exercise

SK1703103489 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The North side's delegation to the meeting between parliamentarians of North and South for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting in a statement today condemned the belligerent moves of the U.S. imperialist aggressors and the South Korean rulers in staging the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises in downright challenge to the repeated warnings of our side and the desires of the nation as an aggressive anti-national criminal act of taking exception to detente, peace and dialogue.

Recalling that our side repeatedly demanded the South Korean authorities to manifest their willingness to halt the "Team Spirit" joint military maneuvers on many occasions including the 7th meeting between parliamentarians of the two sides for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting and preliminary talks for North-South high-level political and military talks, the statement says it is deplorable, indeed, that the "National Assembly" of the South side, our dialogue partner, has not taken any step to halt this war game.

Nobody can predict when the blockheads of the U.S. aggression forces participating in the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises will start an adventurous war

gamble and there is no guarantee that it will not spread to a real war, a total war against the northern half of Korea, the statement says, and stresses:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean authorities must immediately stop the adventurous "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises, looking straight at the trend of the times and the high revolutionary mettle of our people who are determined to firmly defend the inviolable motherland and socialist gains from the enemy's encroachment, and pull out of South Korea without delay all the forces and equipment shipped there for the maneuvers.

We love peace and value North-South dialogue but have no intention at all to beg them of the aggressors.

It is as clear as noonday that a meeting between parliamentarians of the two sides for the preparation of a North-South joint parliamentary meeting cannot be realized while the extremely dangerous "Team Spirit" joint military exercises against us, a dialogue partner, are under way.

If their occasional talk about "dialogue," "detente" and "reunification" is not a sham, the South Korean authorities must make clear their attitude by discontinuing the anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises.

If they continue aggravating the confrontation and tension between the North and the South despite our repeated warnings, they will be held wholly responsible to the nation for all the ensuing consequences and for the delaying of North-South dialogue.

Daily Lauds South's Anti-'Team Spirit' Struggle

SK1703101489 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1008 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—MINJU CHO-SON today comments on the fact that on March 14 some 700 students of 10 universities in Pusan of South Korea held a rally for a halt to the on-going "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises before staging a demonstration and on the same day about 300 people attacked the establishments of the U.S. Airforce firing range south of Seoul as an expression of their indignation at the war game.

This is an eruption of the resolute will of the South Korean people not to tolerate the aggressive and belligerent moves of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, the news analyst says, and continues:

Now that the aggressive and criminal war game of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is in fuller swing with every passing day, it is only too natural that the South Korean students and people should struggle against the game.

The struggle of the students in Pusan and the people in the southern part of Seoul reflected the South Korean people's unanimous opposition to the "Team Spirit" and desire for peace and peaceful reunification.

This time, too, the puppets let loose the police to brutally crack down upon the patriotic struggle of the students and people. They again betrayed in this the true color of the pro-American flunkeyist traitor and the enemy of peace and reunification who is heightening tensions and following the road of war together with the U.S. imperialists.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, looking straight at the trend of the situation, should act with discretion and stop the aggressive war game at once.

Railway Worker Supports KPA Communique
SK1603043789 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1200 GMT 11 Mar 89

[Text] A Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme command communique is raising great repercussions among all party members and workers. Following are the remarks by (Kim Hak-chol), chief of the West Railway General Bureau's Locomotive Department.

[Begin recording] We just received a communique from the KPA supreme command. Blood is seething uncontrollably in the hearts of our transportation workers who received this supreme command communique. The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique are again conducting the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercise and are bringing about a dark cloud of nuclear war which is to carry out a preemptive strike against the northern half of the Republic.

Therefore, our country is faced with the possibility of an outbreak of war at any time. Since there is danger of a new nuclear war being created in our country by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the KPA supreme commander, in dealing with this harsh situation, ordered all military units of the KPA and Korean People's Security Forces, the Red Worker-Peasant Militia, and all members of the Red Youth Guards to assume a combat mobilization posture with a high degree of revolutionary awareness.

This is indeed an intense time when one cannot feel at ease even for one moment. Therefore, our transportation workers of the West Railway General Bureau who received the order from the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander will thoroughly assume combat readiness to strike a single blow at the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique if they attack us indiscriminately and will satisfactorily guarantee the demand for transportation in the people's economy which is increasing every day by enhancing the flames of the transportation revolution.

Therefore, in accordance with the spirit of guaranteeing transportation during wartime to high-ground battle sites in the fatherland liberation war, we will sharply observe the enemy's every move and will, without fail, exceed the plans for transportation every day. By doing so we will, without fail, guarantee the transportation of cargos which is being demanded in various fields of the people's economy in which the new 200-day campaign is being launched vigorously. [end recording]

CPRF Issues Statement on 'Team Spirit'
SK1703091789 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Statement issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland (CPRF) on 14 March to denounce the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise—read by announcer]

[Text] The situation on the Korean peninsula has become extremely acute because of the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise now being staged by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets. The "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise, which virtually began with the mobilization of troops from the U.S. mainland at the end of January, has entered a full-dress offensive operational stage in South Korea.

Coping with the serious situation in which the danger of a new nuclear war is being created because of the reckless military provocation maneuvers by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique, the Korean People's Army [KPA] supreme commander has ordered all KPA and Korean People's Security Forces units and all Red Worker-Peasant Militia and Red Youth Guards members to assume a combat mobilization posture with high revolutionary vigilance. He has also ordered KPA and Korean People's Security Forces officers and men, who have been mobilized for socialist economic construction, to make every preparation so that they can be mobilized rapidly at any moment. This is a self-defensive step to cope with the new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique and is, therefore, extremely righteous.

As every one knows, the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise, participated in by U.S. imperialist aggression forces and South Korean puppet army troops—numbering over 200,000—is mobilizing numerous weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons and new operational equipment, and is conducting various types of offensive operations with our Republic as their target.

In the name of the entire nation, the CPRF bitterly denounces the provocative war exercise commotion for aggression that the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets are staging this year again in disregard of the

unanimous demand of the people at home and abroad and the trend of the times. The CPRF regards it as the gravest threat to peace on the Korean peninsula and to its peaceful reunification.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, which is a direct product of the U.S. imperialists' Korea and Asia strategy, is not only the most dangerous playing with fire for a preemptive strike at and a full-scale attack on our Republic from the sky, ground, and sea, but is also an extremely adventurous preliminary war and a test nuclear war aimed at provoking a war of aggression, using South Korea as a forward base, and at dominating by strength the whole of Korea and Asian countries.

The U.S. imperialists and South Korean military fascist clique's assertion that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise is a defensive annual exercise is nothing but an excuse to justify their nuclear war exercise.

It is already known that there is no threat of southward invasion on the Korean peninsula and that such a threat is nothing but a lie the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets fabricated to justify their war policy.

For the U.S. imperialists to stage the "Team Spirit-89" joint military exercise shows that they are stupid. It is only too clear that if, among the U.S. warmongers who are participating in "Team Spirit-89," those who are stupid kick off a reckless, adventurous playing with fire against our side, there may be the danger of it expanding into all-out war.

We have made all possible efforts to alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula, to prevent war there, and to provide circumstances favorable for peace and peaceful reunification through dialogue. Such peace efforts continue even today.

Last year we put forth four principles for guaranteeing peace and an all-inclusive peace proposal to provide a prerequisite favorable for solid peace on the Korean peninsula and its independent and peaceful reunification and proposed to the United States and the South Korean authorities to hold peace talks for their realization.

This year, too, out of our sheer desire to turn the situation which is developing favorably for peace into an aspect favorable for dialogue, on many occasions we have sincerely urged the United States and South Korea to at least take steps to stop the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise.

Thanks to our sincere efforts, the door of dialogue between the North and the South has already opened, multilateral dialogues are scheduled, and the people's desire for reunification is growing in South Korea as never before.

At this very moment the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets are staging a large-scale war exercise against us in the south of the Korean peninsula. How can they justify their reckless act? This is an act of undisguised aggression and treachery which goes against the new trend of detente and dialogue on the Korean peninsula and which hinders the cause of the country's peaceful reunification.

It is as plain as day that the United States does not want peace and reunification in our country, but tries to attain its aggressive purpose, holding on to South Korea as its permanent colony and military base.

The recent junket to South Korea by Bush, who, while clamoring about an intensified system of cooperation in security claimed that there is no intention to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea, showed more clearly that there is no change at all in the U.S. policy of sacrificing the Korean peninsula for the execution of its policy of aggression and war.

As long as the U.S. imperialist aggression forces continue to occupy South Korea and to seek their policy of aggression and war, there will be no peace on the Korean peninsula and our nation will not be able to escape the danger of nuclear war.

The U.S. imperialists should not talk about the nonsensical threat of someone in another's land but should withdraw without delay, taking along nuclear weapons and all other aggression forces deployed in South Korea as demanded by all the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world.

Only a handful of the South Korean puppet rulers are trying to gain benefits by following the U.S. imperialists' policy of war. Frightened at the South Korean people's strong struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, the South Korean rulers are trying to create a warlike atmosphere in South Korea, to obliterate the growing spirit for reunification there, and, thus, to patch up the crisis in their rule by staging the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise again in collusion with foreign forces.

The shameless act of the South Korean puppets who are throwing a wet blanket over the surging desire of the South Korean people for reunification and who do not hesitate to devastate the territory and make the nation fall victim to nuclear war in league with the aggressors, turning their backs on dialogue with fellow countrymen, is a thrice-cursed act of treachery. Traitors who are not concerned with the nation and the country will not be able to escape the stern punishment from the nation.

The U.S. imperialists' policy of force which has attempted to answer with a nuclear war exercise the world trend of aspiring for independence and peace and to threaten someone with it will not fool anyone and will not work out anywhere. The dirty and treacherous act of

the South Korean rulers, who are trying to maintain their lives by selling the interests of the country and the nation, will further expedite their ruin.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets will never evade grave responsibility for having led the situation in our country to the brink of war or for disturbing peace and creating grave obstacles to North-South dialogue by staging the provocative "Team Spirit 89" war exercise commotion.

Our people will keenly watch the war maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets with heightened vigilance. If anyone dare provoke us, we will answer him with an immediate and decisive retaliation.

We take this opportunity to express the belief that governments, political parties, and public organizations of all countries of the world and all peace-loving people throughout the world will, in the future as in the past, strongly condemn the adventurous new war provocation maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets and continuously lift up their voices of solidarity with our peace efforts.

[Dated] 14 March 1989, Pyongyang

NODONG SINMUN Cited on 'Team Spirit'

Notes U.S.-Japan 'Conspiracy'

SK1703102289 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 17 Mar 89*

[Text] *Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)*—NODONG SINMUN today carries a signed article headlined "'Team Spirit' and U.S.-Japan Conspiracy".

The Japanese authorities not only offer their territory to the U.S. imperialist aggression forces staging the "Team Spirit" military rehearsal as a logistic base, relay base and sortie base but mobilise the three services of the Japanese "Self-Defence Forces" (SDF) to stage, together with U.S. forces, a full-dress military rehearsal in Japan and its surrounding area, the article says, and continues:

Through such military rehearsal the Japanese "SDF" increases the mobile and attack capacities and gets ready to go into action so that it may promptly participate in a war of aggression which the U.S. imperialists are maneuvering to provoke in Korea.

The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises are a test nuclear war and a preliminary war for a preemptive strike at the northern half of Korea with South Korea as a springboard and thereby make a breakthrough in the execution of the anti-socialist strategy.

The U.S. imperialists attach great importance to the military role of Japan in the execution of war strategy against socialism. It is all the more urgent demand for the U.S. ruling quarters to actively mobilise and utilise Japan's military and economic potentials in the U.S. war strategy.

On the other hand, militarist overseas expansion is an invariable ambition of the Japanese reactionaries. They try to realise it by availing themselves of the U.S. imperialists' Asian strategy.

The Japanese reactionaries regard Korea as the first target in their overseas expansion by force of arms. The "Team Spirit" joint military exercises provide a good chance for hastening its preparations.

Therefore, each time the "Team Spirit" was held, they took an active part in it.

The Japanese reactionaries, prompted by a wild ambition for overseas expansion, try to open the road of overseas troop dispatch and realise the old dream of the "Greater East Asia Coprosperity Sphere" by participating in a Korean war. This is why they are stepping up the policy of building a military power.

The Japanese reactionaries' participation and cooperation in the "Team Spirit" war game results in increasing the danger of war on the Korean peninsula and heightening tensions in the Far East.

Labels Exercise as 'War Gamble'

SK1703054189 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 17 Mar 89*

["Reckless War Gamble of Blockheads"—KCNA headline]

[Text] *Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)*—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today notes that the situation on the Korean peninsula has reached a dangerous phase with the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique entering into a full-dress stage of attack operations. The reckless war game they are staging in the South of the Korean peninsula with the mobilization of more than 200,000 troops is a play with fire of blockheads, it remarks.

Noting that they are holding a powder-reeking war game while invariably seeking world domination by "strength" at a time when it has become a global trend to advance toward detente and peace, the news analyst of the daily says: This can be done only by the thickheaded warmaniacs of the United States and their followers.

He goes on:

The military brass of the United States and the South Korean puppets, while engaged in the adventurous war gamble, claim that "there is no danger." This itself is an absolute baloney attesting to their stupidity.

Everyone can speculate that the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises may go over to a real war any moment. Who can vouch that the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the puppet army which, massed in the areas near the military demarcation line, are actually staging a play with fire, firing guns, will not invade the northern half of Korea any time?

A shot fired at us by a foolhardy soldier participating in the war maneuvers may trigger off a total war.

If another war broke out in Korea, our nation in the North and the South would be the first to suffer a terrible holocaust, and it would bode no good for the United States either.

If the U.S. imperialists and the puppets dare venture a war, turning a deaf ear to our warnings, they will be meted out a stern punishment by our people.

U.S. Aircraft Deployment Denounced

SK1703104189 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1039 GMT
17 Mar 89

["U.S. Imperialists Hell Bent on Nuclear Bombing Exercise and Aerial Espionage"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialist aggressors introduced into South Korea 18 "B-52" strategic bombers from Guam Island, an overseas base of aggression, and frantically staged bombing exercises simulating a nuclear attack on the northern half of Korea on three occasions over March 14-15 alone, according to military sources.

In March they committed aerial espionage into the depth of the northern half of Korea on 14 occasions with the mobilization of "U-2" strategic reconnaissance plane and perpetrated aerial espionage against the North with "E-3A" AWACS on 4 occasions.

The acts of aerial espionage by "RV-1," "RC-12" and other reconnaissance planes of various types numbered more than 90 in the first half of March.

Paper Assesses Move

SK1703054989 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today charges that the U.S. imperialists intend to put spurs to the buildup of nuclear attack capabilities in South Korea and the Far East.

Pointing to their scheme to deploy the newest-type "F15E" fighter-bombers in South Korea and the Far East and allocate tens of millions of dollars for their installation in the new fiscal year, a signed commentary of the paper titled "Act Against Trend of Detente" says: Such moves of the U.S. imperialists clearly prove that they are accelerating new war preparations in the Far East with mad haste.

What is more, the U.S. imperialists made a point of vociferating about the deployment of "F15E" fighter-bombers, one of the latest nuclear attack means, in South Korea when the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises directed against us are at their height. This is quite symbolic of their stepped-up nuclear war preparations in South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists' moves for a new Korean war, a nuclear war, are a criminal act going against the trend of detente and an open challenge to the Korean people and the world peace-loving people who want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

Boss of the U.S. imperialists Bush, during his South Korea trip some time ago, openly declared that "there was no plan to reduce the U.S. troops" occupying South Korea and U.S. Secretary of State Baker raved that "there would be neither reduction nor withdrawal of the U.S. troops in South Korea at the present juncture."

The brigandish utterances of the U.S. rulers and the adventurous "Team Spirit 89" now under way and the projected deployment of "F15E" fighter-bombers in South Korea go to prove that the U.S. imperialists intend to keep hold on South Korea forever as their colony and military base and turn it into a new ignition point of military provocation.

The U.S. imperialists must immediately stop the arms buildup in South Korea and moves for a new war, a nuclear war, in this region and quit South Korea at once, taking along all their aggression forces and death tools as demanded by the Korean people and the world peace-loving people.

CPRF Criticizes Deployment of F-15's

SK1703103889 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] issued its Information No. 535 today denouncing the U.S. imperialists' scheme to deploy the latest-type "F15E" fighter-bombers in the Far East including South Korea and the Philippines.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists are planning to deploy 72 of this fighter-bomber in the Far East including South Korea and considering the inclusion in the 1990 fiscal budget of installation spending amounting to several dozen million dollars for this purpose, the information goes on:

This is a malicious challenge to the unanimous desire of the entire Korean people and the world peaceloving people for the relaxation of tension and peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification and an unpardonable criminal act against the trend of the time.

In planning to introduce again many fighter planes of latest type into South Korea, the U.S. imperialists seek to provoke a new war, a nuclear war and a chemical war, come what may, keeping hold on South Korea as a colony and military base for an indefinite period.

The U.S. imperialists, looking straight at the trend of the time, should act with discretion and withdraw from South Korea without delay, taking along their troops and all their destruction weapons.

Baker's Remarks Said To 'Betray' U.S Intention
SK1703051289 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT*
17 Mar 89

["Insidious Attempt of Aggressor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] *Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)*—U.S. Secretary of State Baker told the House Appropriations Committee on March 15 that "it is premature to discuss the question of U.S. troop pullout under the present conditions of continued threat from the North."

Noting that his rigmarole once again betrays the aggressive intention of the U.S. imperialists to keep occupying South Korea by force of arms and it is a downright challenge to the entire Korean people and the world's peaceloving people who demand the withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea and want peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

The U.S. imperialists are now trying to keep a firmer hold on South Korea as a nuclear forward base, a colony and military base of theirs and use it as a foothold for the execution of their aggressive global strategy.

At the moment, they are frantically staging the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercises for invasion of the northern half of Korea.

Their continued talk about fictitious "threat from the North" is precisely aimed at justifying their criminal aggressive and belligerent moves and creating an excuse for remaining in South Korea.

However clamorously he may talk about the "threat from the North" to which nobody will lend an ear, Baker cannot conceal this stark fact.

The U.S. imperialists must give up their brigandish acts like a thief crying "Stop thief!" and pull all their aggression forces including troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea without delay.

Delegates to U.S. Seminar on Opening Country
SK1703094589 *Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean*
17 Mar 89 p 2

[Report from Hong Kong by correspondent Kim Chong-so]

[Text] On 16 March the latest issue of the FAR EAST-ERN ECONOMIC REVIEW, a weekly news magazine published in Hong Kong, reported that three North Korean delegates participating in an international seminar sponsored by an arms reduction and peace institute at the University of Hawaii in the United States, surprised other participants because they did not wear Kim Il-song badges on their breasts.

The REVIEW also quoted the three North Korean delegates as saying that their country is at the crossroads of deciding whether to further open its society or to adhere to its present line of self-reliance.

According to this weekly magazine, not only had these North Korean scholars made positive efforts to come close to the American participants, but they also were open-minded all through the seminar. According to the magazine, they also conveyed a letter of invitation to Robert Scalapino, a conservative professor at the University of California specializing in North Korean affairs, asking him to visit North Korea.

Student Delegation Denounces Blocking Talks
SK1603154789 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1515 GMT*
16 Mar 89

[Text] *Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)*—The North side's delegation to North-South student talks bitterly denounces the treacherous act of the South Korean authorities in barring again the North-South student talks desired by the entire Korean students so earnestly, regarding it as a grave nation-splitting crime against dialogue and reunification.

So declared the North side's delegation to North-South student talks in its statement published in Kaesong today in denunciation of the South Korean authorities who obstructed the March 16 North-South student talks for discussing the question of participation in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students.

Recalling the announcement of the South Korean "Chondaehyop" that it could not come to the talks because the South Korean Red Cross had not conveyed

its letter to the Korean Students Committee concerning the North-South student talks for the debate on the participation in the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students and, furthermore, the South Korean authorities were going to "totally block" the March 16 student talks, the statement says:

The South Korean authorities blocked the North-South student talks again following the June 10 and August 15 talks last year. This is a most malicious challenge to the entire Korean students who ardently aspire after reunification and an unpardonable treacherous act aimed at creating "two Koreas" and thus keeping the country and the nation, the students and people in the North and the South separated forever.

If the South Korean authorities persistently obstruct North-South student talks and try to block the talks to the end, they will be unable to escape curses and punishment by the whole nation as traitors to the nation and the enemy of reunification.

If the South Korean "Committee for the Promotion of the Exchange of Students Between the North and the South" is truly interested in North-South student talks and willing to let South Korean students participate in the Pyongyang festival, it should actively promote and help talks with us pursued by "Chondaehyop", instead of obstructing them.

Expressing understanding of the revised proposal of "chondaehyop" that North-South student talks for discussing the question of participating in the Pyongyang festival be held in April, the student delegation of the North side expects that the meeting with the delegates of "Chondaehyop" then will be realized without fail.

We are convinced that the entire Korean people and the world's progressive students will sternly denounce the home and foreign separatists for blocking North-South student talks and barring fellow students in the South from participating in the Pyongyang festival and extend stronger support and solidarity to the South Korean students in their valiant struggle for national unity and reunification.

Writers Union Accepts Proposal for Talks

SK1703070289 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2100 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Korean Writers Union open letter sent to the National Conference of Literature Writers of South Korea on 16 March—read by announcer]

[Text] To the National Conference of Literature Writers of South Korea:

We heard that on 4 March your conference issued an open letter in connection with preliminary talks between North and South delegations to hold a meeting of writers from the North, the South, and abroad.

By honoring the opinion of your conference, the Korean Writers Union Central Committee hopes that preliminary contact between 5-man delegations from each side will be held in the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission conference room in Panmunjom at 1000 [0100 GMT] on 27 March.

We agree with your conference's proposal for discussing the venue and date of a full-dress meeting, the number of participants, and the agenda items.

Our aspirations for developing national literature together and expediting the peaceful reunification of the country by pooling our will in patriotism and by devoting our energy to reunification and national salvation without distinguishing between the North and the South are linked as one, and our contact to realize them cannot be blocked by anyone.

A meeting between writers in the North and the South will mark an epochal turning point in developing national literature in a unified manner and in carrying out the common cause of the country's peaceful reunification.

To arrange an historic meeting between North and South writers, we will always continue our march with South Korean writers who aspire for independence, democracy, and reunification.

We express respect to you.

[Signed] Central Committee of the Korean Writers Union
[Dated] 16 March 1989

List of Delegates Announced

SK1703071089 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
2100 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] On 16 March the Korean Writers Union Central Committee formed and announced the North side's delegation which will participate in preliminary contact which, with the aspirations of all fellow countrymen to expedite the peaceful reunification of the country growing higher, will be held in Panmunjom on 27 March to arrange a meeting of writers from the North, the South, and abroad.

The list of the North side's delegation formed yesterday is as follows: delegation head Choe Yong-hwa, first vice chairman of the General Federation of Unions of Korean Literature and Arts Central Committee; delegate Cho Chong-ho, vice chairman of the Korean Writers Union Reunification Central Committee's Literature Subcommittee; delegate Pak Se-ok, director of the Korean Literary Production Company poetry office; delegate Nam Tae-hyon, writer and novelist of the Korean Literary Production Company; and delegate O Yong-che, writer and poet of the Korean Literary Production Company.

Chong Chun-ki Remembers Anti-Japanese Uprising
SK1603060189 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1100 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Speech by Chong Chun-ki, alternate member of the Workers Party of Korea (WPK) Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the State Administration Council, at a Pyongyang City Report Meeting, held on 28 February at the People's Palace of Culture to mark the 70th anniversary of the anti-Japanese popular uprising—recorded]

[Text] Comrades: Today we significantly celebrate the 70th anniversary of the 1 March popular uprising under the solemn circumstances in which all of the people throughout the country are effecting great upsurges in all fronts of socialist construction by waging another 200-day campaign with firm faith in certain victory and revolutionary optimism, upholding the militant task advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address of this year and in his report delivered at the celebration meeting held to mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Republic and in which the South Korean people are more vigorously waging the anti-U.S. struggle for independence, the anti-fascist struggle for democratization, and the struggle for national reunification.

The 1 March popular uprising, which was recorded as a brilliant chapter in the history of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of our country, was an all-people's anti-Japanese resistance to regain the territory of the fatherland divested to, and trampled underfoot by, the Japanese imperialists and, thus, to establish national sovereignty. The Japanese imperialist aggressors, who completely occupied our country by fabricating an aggressive annexation treaty in 1910, established such repressive organizations as the army, the military police, and the police throughout the country and perpetrated brutal military rule. Thus, they trampled underfoot even the basic rights and freedoms of our nation and arrested, imprisoned, and killed our innocent people at random.

The Japanese imperialists, who fabricated colonial, evil laws unprecedented in the history of mankind, not only brutally oppressed and exploited our people, but also plundered our valuable national assets, including land and underground resources, in a brigandish way. They also enforced the colonial slave education in a bid to make the Korean nation their eternal colonial slaves and, thus, completely obliterated our national culture.

Our people had to stand at the vital crossroads of determining whether they should become slaves forever under the Japanese colonial rule or whether they should seek revival by waging a resolute struggle against the Japanese imperialists. Our people, who had indomitably resisted the Japanese imperialists' medieval, brigandish tyranny and their brutal atrocities since the first day of

their occupation, gallantly rose up in the nationwide anti-Japanese resistance on 1 March 1919, exploding with pent-up national indignation and deep-rooted sentiments.

The historic 1 March popular uprising began with the masses' demonstration struggle staged in Pyongyang as its first beacon. That day in Pyongyang, over 100,000 people from all walks of life rose up in an anti-Japanese demonstration under the leadership of patriotic youths, students, and people whom Mr Kim Hyong-chik, the indomitable revolutionary fighter and the excellent leader of the anti-Japanese national liberation movement of our country, personally fostered. The demonstrators gallantly fought, directly confronting the Japanese imperialist Army and police, shouting the slogans "Go home, Japanese and the Japanese Army" and "Long live the independence of Korea."

Pyongyang citizens' just anti-Japanese demonstration struggle quickly burned like wildfire and spread throughout the country, including Nampo, Anju, Haeju, Suncheon, Wonsan, Seoul, Taegu, Kwangju, and Pusan. The struggle finally spread to Koreans living overseas.

Patriotic Korean people, who deeply experienced the miserable situation of having lost the country under the brutal Japanese imperialists' colonial rule, gallantly rose up in the anti-Japanese mass demonstrations and riots in defiance of the difficult circumstances under which the Japanese imperialists' bloody suppression and massacre were being perpetrated.

For the period of 3 months alone from the time of the eruption of the 1 March popular uprising to the end of May, [words indistinct] people of all walks of life participated in the anti-Japanese uprising, and until the end of that year, over 3,000 demonstrations and riots took place throughout the country. The flames of the anti-Japanese resistance spread to 169 cities and counties out of the total 232 cities and counties and even to the northeast China, the Soviet Union's maritime province of Siberia, Japan, and Hawaii.

Indeed, through the entire course of the national 1 March uprising, the Korean people unstintedly demonstrated to the world that they are a wise and gallant people who never tolerate any aggressive forces trampling underfoot national dignity and sovereignty. Through the entire course of the uprising, the Korean people also dealt severe blows to the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule, greatly enhanced the Korean people's national awareness, and were a great encouraging influence for the development of the national liberation movement of the people of colonial countries. [applause]

The anti-Japanese popular uprising ended in failure because of the brutal suppression of the Japanese imperialists and the independent forces' weakness. This taught a serious lesson in the history of our country's national liberation. The 1 March popular uprising taught

the truth that in order for the popular masses, the main force of history, to win victory in their revolutionary struggle, they should be blessed with the leadership of an outstanding leader, the brain of the revolution, and should wage an organizational struggle based on scientific strategy and tactics. The 1 March popular uprising also taught the serious lesson that in order to win victory in the revolutionary movement for national independence and social progress, it is imperative to thoroughly reject flunkeyism and the ideology of relying on foreign forces, to firmly establish *chuche*, and to counter counterrevolutionary violence with revolutionary violence.

Through the historic experience and lesson of the 1 March popular uprising, our nation urgently waited for the appearance of an excellent leader who would lead the anti-Japanese independence movement to victory. This urgent desire of the entire people was brilliantly realized in the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and the legendary hero, who, standing at the head of the revolution and assuming responsibility for the destiny of the fatherland and the nation, created the immortal *chuche* idea, the guiding ideology of the revolution, and elucidated the future path of the revolution with its brilliant rays. [applause]

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, based on his scientific insight into the fundamental weakpoints of the early nationalist movement of our country, including the anti-Japanese popular uprising, and of the early communist movement, and the consequences brought about therefrom, made clear the principles of the *chuche* idea, elucidated the independent line of the Korean communist movement, and established the independent revolutionary force. In October 1926 the great leader, after forming the Down-With-Imperialism Union, the first revolutionary vanguard organization of our country, organized in July 1930 the first party organization with the new generation young communists, whom he himself had brought up under the guiding policy of the *chuche* idea, and expanded the party organizations in northeastern China and in various regions of the country.

In March 1934 the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song organized the Korean People's Revolutionary Army [KPRA] party organizations and established the uniform party organizational guidance system for the party organizations of various levels in KPRA units and local areas, firmly realizing the party guidance for all party organizations and the revolutionary movement in general of our country. The great leader not only founded the KPRA and led the anti-Japanese armed struggle, based on his firm belief that we should face and struggle against the antirevolutionary violence with revolutionary violence, but also led the pannational anti-Japanese resistance, firmly uniting the patriotic people of all walks of life around the Fatherland Restoration Society, which was the united anti-Japanese national front, thereby organizing and leading the overall anti-Japanese struggle for national liberation. Thus, our people, who had waged the continuous struggle for the independence of the

country and the liberation of the nation, finally defeated the brigandish Japanese imperialists and brilliantly achieved the historical cause of national liberation which the Samil uprisers and our nation desired so ardently. [applause]

After the liberation, the great leader brilliantly realized the cause of building the party, state, and army in the difficult situation within and without, victoriously led the antiimperialist and antifeudal democratic revolution in the northern half of the Republic and the fierce fatherland liberation war against the U.S. imperialists' armed invasion, and by vigorously accelerating socialist revolution and socialist construction, developed a new era of great national prosperity and growth in the fatherland, thereby boosting our people's dignity and position onto a highest plane.

Today, our people, upholding the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song with loyalty and under the wise leadership of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, are vigorously accelerating the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural, and are brilliantly realizing the cause of modeling the entire society on the *chuche* idea. I take this opportunity to respectfully give the greatest honor and the warmest gratitude, with the greatest adoration and endless loyalty of all the Korean people, to the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the sun of the nation and the benevolent father, who liberated our people from the Japanese imperialist rule, gave them an independent and creative rewarding new life, and wisely leads them along the victorious and glorious single road of revolution and construction, and to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, the genius of the revolution and construction and the sun of communism, who brilliantly inherits and completes the *chuche* revolutionary cause. [applause]

Comrades, 70 long years have gone by since the 1 March uprising in which heroic blood was shed for the nation's independence and the people's sovereignty. Nearly a half century has passed since our fatherland was liberated from the yoke of the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule.

However, the aspirations of the 1 March uprisers and our people for the nation's independence and the people's sovereignty have not been realized in half of the nation; the South Korean people are still under a state of colonial subordination.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: Having occupied South Korea by means of force, the U.S. imperialists turned it into their complete colony and military base. Although they propagandized as if South Korea is an independent state and described themselves as supporters, the practical rulers who have seized all powers in South Korea are none other than the U.S. imperialist aggressors.

The U.S. imperialists, who extended the evil hand of aggression to our country even from the mid-19th century, occupied South Korea by force after the Japanese imperialists were defeated and established a more atrocious and more vicious colonial system there than the Japanese imperialists' colonial rule. They cruelly infringed upon the sovereignty of the people by completely seizing real political power, the economic life, and even the military prerogative of supreme command in South Korea.

By deploying approximately 40,000 aggressor forces, 1,000 nuclear weapons, and numerous chemical weapons in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists turned South Korea into the largest nuclear forward base in the Far East and a hotbed for thermonuclear war. In the beginning of the 1980's, in particular, they openly declared that the Korean peninsula is the first line for the U.S. strategy and a test ground for a showdown in the 1980's.

The U.S. imperialists, who opposed to peace and the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula, stage each year the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise, a large-scale nuclear war exercise, with the South Korean puppets and continuously strain our country's situation.

This year, too, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are staging the latest "Team Spirit" joint military exercise ignoring our repeated advises and demand, although they are well aware of the fact that this joint military exercise will have a grave effect on the impending North-South dialogue, not to mention peace and the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula.

More than 200,000 troops from the army, navy, and air force, including the U.S. Army; the U.S. imperialists' strategic command, which assumes the command of a nuclear war as its basic mission; commanding aircraft of nuclear war; the carrier corps of the U.S. 7th Fleet, which is called a mobile nuclear base; B-52 strategic bombers, one of the main elements of nuclear weapons; and F-16 and F-15 nuclear fighter-bombers and Lance missiles are being mobilized in the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercise staged in South Korea.

In view of the scale of the troops and equipment mobilized in this exercise and of the contents of training and its method of performance, the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercise, which the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppets are staging is a war exercise with an aggressive and offensive nature and is a preliminary war and a test nuclear war designed to launch a preemptive attack on our Republic.

Because of the adventurous "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges, dark clouds of a nuclear war heavily cast over our country today and grave obstacles are being created before the North-South dialogue, which has, after a long time, been realized in many channels.

By staging "Team Spirit-89," which runs counter to our serious efforts for peace and aspirations of the peace-loving people of the world, the United States and the South Korean authorities have proved that their talk about peace, dialogue, and reunification is a falsehood and that, on the contrary, it is nothing but a trick of war, confrontation, and division.

The U.S. imperialists now rely on the fascist military rule to carry out their policy of subjugating South Korea as a colony and their war policy toward it. The present South Korean regime is, from start to finish, a traitorous pro-U.S., pro-Japanese toadyst regime, a tyrannical military dictatorial regime, and an antinational splittist regime, just like the regimes before it.

Although the current South Korean ruling clique now babbles as if their rise to power has brought an end to the era of oppression, oppression that was inflicted by government power, and has ushered in an era of democratic development and national self-respect, such clamoring is nothing but a deception and hypocrisy designed to camouflage the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule and fascist suppressive system.

The present South Korean authorities' babbling about commitment to democratization is also nothing but a deceptive pledge intended to actively support the U.S. imperialists' policy of subjugating South Korea as a colony by strengthening the fascist suppressive rule. Under the U.S. imperialists control the puppets noisily babbled about establishing a new democratic order through such things as the so-called Declaration of Democratization and special statement before and after they came into power. However, nowhere is true freedom and democracy visible in South Korea.

Even today, nearly 2 years after they made the so-called promises for democratization, nothing has changed in South Korea. Such notorious fascist evil laws as the National Security Law and Social Stability Law and such fascist suppressive institutions as the Agency for National Security Planning, the Security Command, and the National Police Headquarters are still in place. In addition, those who played the leading role in the dictatorial rule and who ran wild in the suppression of the people under the Fifth Republic still form the backbone of the Sixth Republic.

Recently the South Korean authorities have not only laid bare their true colors as fascist dictators, even after taking off their mask of democratization, but they have also embarked upon a road of intensifying their violence-ridden rule.

While paying lip service to the defense of the so-called liberal democratic system through the use of government power, the South Korean puppets subject to suppression

not only the righteous patriotic activity for independence, democracy, and reunification across the country, but also the call for basic rights to exist by branding them as subversive acts to the system.

The South Korean fascist military clique brutally suppressed the struggle of demonstration by the peasants in Youido on 13 February, and arrested dozens of the participants, and took to police stations all of the Yonsei University students who called for halting the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise in an open letter delivered to the U.S. Embassy on 15 February. In addition, it barbarously cracked down on Chonnam University students who demanded the withdrawal of U.S. troops and opposed Bush's junket to South Korea, along with those who occupied and staged a struggle at the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju.

By mobilizing 14,000 riot police from 90 companies, the fascist clique, which is becoming more insane each day, blocked the mass rally of Seoul citizens organized by Chonminnyon [National Coalition of the Movement for Democracy and the Nation] on 18 February and repressed with guns and bayonets the demonstration struggle of the workers who demanded the abolition of evil labor laws and antidemocratic laws and wage increases. The fascist clique perpetrated the atrocious and barbarous fascist act by arraigning approximately 3,200 innocent people.

Furthermore, while raving that it would block from the outset the participation of Chonminnyon's delegation in a working-level contact with us for the convocation of a pannational congress, the South Korean ruling bunch has directed the spearhead of suppression on Chonminnyon, Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representatives] and Sochongnyon [Seoul Area Federation of Student Councils].

Because of the puppets atrocious, repressive maneuvers, South Korea has been turned into a bloodthirsty place with a martial law-like atmosphere, where fascist violence is rampant. This shows that the maneuvers of the present rulers, who are attempting to survive the crisis by blocking with guns and bayonets the patriotic advance of the popular masses, who have become the main force of the social development and reunification movement in South Korea, have reached a reckless stage.

The present South Korean ruling bunch's true colors have been revealed in its attempt to conceal traitor Chon Tu-hwan's barbarous massacre in Kwangju and his irregularities and corruption behind the black curtain.

Forced by the South Korean people's demand that the barbarous act of massacre and irregularities and corruption committed by former dictator Chon Tu-hwan be investigated and the criminals be punished, the No Tae-u group waged a farce of an investigation and hearings as if it were going to probe the Kwangju massacre and the Fifth Republic irregularities.

However, this is nothing but a deceitful political drama designed to appease the people's struggle and to conceal its crimes.

While babbling about a common national body and about letting people know the realities of the North, the South Korean rulers not only openly suppressed in actuality the South Korean people's aspirations to correctly know the realities of the North, but also punished each day those who published, printed, and disseminated books concerning the northern half of the Republic, by branding them as procommunists who help the enemy and as radical leftist elements.

This fact clearly proved that the people's aspiration for democracy has not been realized in South Korea and the repressive fascist rule is still continuing. While cruelly oppressing the patriotic people who aspire for independence, democracy and reunification, under the manipulation of the U.S. imperialists, the current South Korean rulers are persistently pursuing North-South confrontation and permanent division of the nation.

The 7 July declaration and northern policy that the South Korean authorities are loudly propagandizing show that they are pursuing the two-Korea policy in a more conspiratorial manner than their predecessors.

Achieving peace and reunification in our country is an integrated process, and there can be no transitional stage between the two. This notwithstanding, the South Korean authorities, while establishing various complicated steps, evade the settlement of political and military questions including the issue of withdrawing foreign troops and nuclear weapons. They are attempting to merely waste time while making exchanges between the North and the South. This shows that they are not interested in the slightest bit in peace and the peaceful reunification of the nation.

The so-called northern policy put forward by them is, in essence, a splittist policy to permanently divide our country into two Koreas by realizing the preconditions for cross-recognition and for entry into the United Nations in such a manner as to make South Korea, a colony, recognized as an independent state, and is a treacherous nation-selling policy designed to permanently keep South Korea a colony and military base.

With surging national indignation, I sternly denounce the criminal acts, which can never be pardoned, of the U.S. imperialists, who are blocking Korea's reunification while implementing the vicious colonial rule by occupying the southern half of our fatherland for nearly a half century and of the South Korean puppet clique, which persistently pursues nation-selling treachery, fascism, war, and permanent division, under the protection of the U.S. imperialists.

The South Korean people have tenaciously struggled for democracy and the nation's peaceful reunification under the cruel colonial military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and their stooges ever since the nation's liberation.

Through the October popular resistance struggle after the 15 August national liberation, the 7 February national salvation struggle, the April 1960 popular uprising, the May 1980 Kwangju popular uprising, the recently expanding and rapidly developing mass anti-U.S. struggle for independence, the antifascist struggle for democracy and the struggle for national reunification, they vigorously demonstrated their tenacious, patriotic struggle and their heroic spirit.

The patriotic South Korean youths, students, and people, who learned a lesson in the course of their bloody struggle in the past that as long as the U.S. imperialist aggressors remain in South Korea, neither democratization of the South Korean society nor national reunification can be achieved, today concentrated the spearhead of attack on opposing the U.S. imperialists—the colonial occupation forces and the wicked enemy of democratization and reunification—by upholding the anti-U.S. banner for democracy.

In recent years the courageous South Korean youths, students, and people, not yielding to the bestial fascist oppression, branded the United States as the ringleader of the nation's division and a basic obstacle to national reunification and staged anti-U.S. rallies and demonstrations in many places throughout South Korea including Seoul, Pusan, and Kwangju, by shouting the slogans, "Let us expel Yankees who hinder national reunification!" and "Let us reunify the fatherland by driving out the U.S. imperialists!" Thus, they attacked and occupied organizations of U.S. aggression in South Korea, including the U.S. Cultural Center, and vigorously carried out the anti-U.S. struggle by burning the U.S. President in effigy and the U.S. flag.

The struggle for national reunification waged in South Korea has been turned into a movement of the majority from a movement of the minority and is expanding and developing into a mass movement embracing intellectuals, religious people, and people from all walks of life including youths, students, workers, and farmers, instead of a movement of a certain limited class of the people.

Today the people from all walks of life in South Korea are carrying out the struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification in an organized manner.

The formation of Chonminnyon, a unified organization which includes a broad range of opposition forces and figures from all walks of life in South Korea, is a significant event in the anti-U.S. and antifascist struggle of the South Korean people.

Chonminnyon assumes as its goal for struggle the devotion to anti-outside forces struggle for independence, to antifascist struggle for democratization and to the movement for national reunification in order to achieve genuine emancipation of the masses and a society of freedom and equality. Raising as slogans for impending struggle the Kwangju massacre, the problem of Fifth Republic irregularities, the abolition of evil antidemocratic laws, and the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and nuclear weapons, Chonminnyon is waging a persistent struggle to achieve them.

What attracts our special attention in the struggle of youths, students, and people from all walks of life in South Korea is that a mass movement, which takes the immortal *chuche* idea as its ideal of struggle, is being vigorously waged among the popular masses despite the atrocious fascist repression of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique.

Today, South Korean youths, students, and patriotic people believe in the great *chuche* idea and, following this banner, they are vigorously waging the struggle to correctly understand the realities in the northern half of the Republic.

Thus, the nation's overall situation is firmly advancing forward. Those who are leading the development of such a situation are not the splittists at home and abroad but the popular masses who are the main force for reunification.

No one can block or reverse such a trend of the time, which is advancing to achieve national reunification by ending the nation's division and recovering national sovereignty.

Taking this opportunity to mark the 70th anniversary of the 1 March popular uprising, I extend warm compatriotic support and encouragement to the South Korean youths, students, and people from all walks of life who are courageously struggling to realize national sovereignty and the democratization of society and to achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the fatherland even amid the cruel suppression and persecution by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean military fascist clique. [applause]

Comrades: Safeguarding national sovereignty in South Korea and achieving the independent and peaceful reunification of the nation are the sacred struggle to realize the aspirations of the participants in the 1 March popular uprising and are the most urgent task laid before all the Korean people.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: By actively inspiring the present situation which is developing in favor of national reunification, this year we should effect a practical advance without fail in ensuring peace in the nation and in expediting peaceful reunification.

Today, when the basic course in the development of the situation in our country is firmly turned toward a direction of national reunification, we should seek reasonable methods for reunification and attain a national consensus so that our people's reunification movement will be vigorously pushed ahead and a decisive phase will be opened in resolving the reunification issue.

Only when a national consensus is attained for the reasonable method of national reunification, can all the people in the North and South advance jointly toward the common milestone.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's plan to found the Democratic Federal Republic of Koryo is the best method for resolving the reunification issue in our country's practical conditions. In order to achieve national reunification under the circumstances in which different ideologies and systems practically exist in the North and the South of our country, we should form a unified state in such a manner as to combine the two autonomous governments by leaving intact the ideology and system existing in either side based on the common principle that one does not swallow the other nor will one be swallowed by the other.

Only reunifying the country through a confederal system is the most correct way for resolving the reunification issue in conformity with the common demand and aspirations of the nation based on the three-point principles for national reunification. The call for resolving the question of national reunification through the method of a confederal system has been put forward even by political and social circles in South Korea. Under this circumstance today, the South Korean authorities are not in a position to ignore the reunification method of a confederal system.

This shows that the reunification method using a confederal system can be the basis for a national consensus. The issue of national reunification is an issue related to the interests of all Korean people and thus, cannot be monopolized by a certain political party or a certain person in authority in the North or the South. This issue can be successfully resolved only when the will and strength of the entire nation are pooled together.

The political consultative meeting between leading-class figures who can represent each political party, each faction, and all strata in the North and South can be the venue of pannational dialogue in which the people's will can be pooled in the easiest way. It is a realistic and reasonable negotiation method for attaining a national consensus on the national reunification method.

Even though they have differences in ideology, religion, and political views, if they get together and have sincere discussions, the leading personages of the North and South will be able to promote understanding and trust, achieve reconciliation and unity, provide a wonderful reunification plan based upon a national consensus, and

open a new chapter of national history. Truly contained in the proposal to convene a political consultative conference between the leading personages of the North and South are the noble intention and will of the respected and beloved leader Comrade Kim Il-song, who with boundless magnanimity and tolerance is making every utmost effort to provide a reunified fatherland for the entire nation; an intention to love the country and the nation; and a will to reunify the fatherland. Anyone who sincerely loves the country and the nation and who is worried about the destiny of the nation must not hesitate to rise up to solve the reunification question and must actively rise up to realize multilateral talks and bilateral dialogue with us from a single desire to save the country in response to the proposal to convene a political consultative conference between the leading personages of the North and South. Political and military confrontation between the North and South must be immediately brought to an end to successfully realize a political consultative conference between the leading personages of the North and South and various other forms of dialogue, joint ventures, and exchanges.

Political and military confrontation between the North and South is a basic factor that gives birth to mutual misunderstanding and mistrust. Therefore, an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust will not be promoted without bringing an end to the acute confrontation. Confrontation must also be brought to an end to realize various forms of North-South dialogue that have now been placed on the agenda and to successfully solve all problems related to the reunification of the fatherland through sincere dialogue.

In step with the new trend of detente, after freeing themselves from the past era's concept of confrontation, the South Korean authorities must not incite the opposing side or strain the situation but boldly remove all the factors that may promote mistrust or cause conflicts. Out of such an exclusive desire, last year we advanced the four principles for guaranteeing peace and an all-inclusive peace proposal. Also, early this year we proposed to the South Korean authorities that they express the attitude of not conducting the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise at least this year.

However, the persons in authority in South Korea forcibly started the "Team Spirit 89" joint military exercise together with the United States after all, thus artificially blocking the smooth progress in North-South dialogue. Moreover, even when they came to attend preliminary talks for high-level North-South political military talks after reluctantly accepting the proposal for the talks, they even asserted that they would continue the military exercise.

The South Korean authorities must have a basic stand and attitude toward dialogue in the first place, and must assume the resolute attitude of immediately discontinuing the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise.

Squarely seeing the trend of the times, the persons in authority in South Korea must immediately stop kicking up war maneuvers and maneuvers to fabricate two Koreas, maneuvers that run counter to the reunification of the fatherland, must have the courage to make the decision to immediately withdraw the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, must abolish all the vicious fascist laws, and must achieve democracy in social and political lives in South Korea. Instead of consistently seeking the two-Koreas policy, squarely seeing today's circumstances in which yearning for reunification has become an unstoppable trend, the United States must change its Korea policy in step with this trend, and must withdraw from South Korea along with its troops and nuclear weapons at the earliest possible date. After abandoning their foolish dream of fishing in troubled waters by taking advantage of the U.S. imperialists' two-Koreas policy, the Japanese reactionaries must no longer commit any act that hinders peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

No Korean must in any way allow the country to be eternally divided into two Koreas and the nation to be toyed with by outside forces. Confrontation over reunifying the fatherland is not a regional confrontation between the North and South, ideological confrontation, or systemic confrontation but a confrontation between reunification and divisionist lines, between peace and war lines, and between patriotic and treacherous lines.

After being strongly united under the national idea of reunifying the fatherland, all Korean compatriots in the North and South and overseas who love the country and the nation and who hope for the reunification of the fatherland must wage a pannational struggle to crush the maneuvers by divisionists at home and abroad to fabricate two Koreas. When all the compatriots in the North and South and overseas are single-mindedly united to unanimously rise up in a struggle to reunify fatherland, the criminal maneuvers of divisionists at home and abroad will not escape disruption, and the historic cause of reunifying the fatherland will be realized without fail.

On this occasion, I express my expectations that, while confidently looking forward to the day when the fatherland will be reunified, the people of all walks of life in South Korea and compatriots overseas will rise up on a pannational basis in a sacred struggle to oppose the United States, to save the country, and to reunify the fatherland.

The people in the northern half of the Republic have been bestowed with the heavy and honorable tasks that by more vigorously carrying out the three revolutions, they will hasten the complete victory of socialism; will display the superiority of our country's socialist system in an over-all manner; and will achieve the independent, peaceful reunification of the fatherland. Upholding the militant tasks presented by the great leader during this year's New Year's speech, all workers must overfulfill the

militant tasks of the new 200-day campaign and brilliantly mark the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students, our people's grand festival, by again scoring upsurges in all fields of socialist construction.

Our people, who are struggling to complete the chuche revolutionary cause under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and dear Comrade Kim Chong-il, are ever-victorious and invincible. Let all of us more vigorously struggle to accomplish the complete victory of socialism in the northern half of the Republic and to achieve the independent, peaceful reunification of the fatherland, while upholding the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea by being strongly united around the party Central Committee led by the respected and beloved Comrade Kim Il-song. [applause]

Plenary Meeting of Chondoist Party Held
SK1603153489 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The 14th Plenary Meeting of the Sixth Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party was held today in Pyongyang.

The plenary meeting discussed "Tasks of the Party Organisations To Accelerate the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of the Country Against the 'Two Koreas' Plot of the U.S. Imperialists and Their Lackeys" and the organisational question.

The plenary meeting heard a report by chairman Chong Sin-hyok and speeches on the first agenda item.

The reporter and speakers noted that the main trend of developments is definitely turning toward national reunification in the North and the South of Korea, despite the "two Koreas" plot of the United States and the South Korean rulers. They brought to light the anti-reunification moves of the aggressive and traitorous forces to block this current of history.

The plenary meeting adopted an appropriate resolution and an appeal to the South Korean Chondoists.

The appeal calls upon the South Korean Chondoists to resolutely oppose the "two Koreas" plot of the splittists within and without and rise up in the struggle for national reunification.

Discussing the second agenda item, the plenary meeting unanimously evaluated the contribution made by Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Choe Tok-sin, former ordinary of the central headquarters of South Korean Chondoism, to the reconstruction and development of Chondoist order and the acceleration of the country's independent and peaceful reunification in South Korea and abroad, and elected him chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party.

In his inaugural address Choe Tok-sin said that if the Chondoists in the North and the South pool their efforts at the moment, they can do things favourable to achieving national reunification in accordance with the proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-sung. He proposed to the South Korean Chondoists that the Chondoists in the North and the South meet at an early date and discuss the reunification question.

In this connection he invited fellow believer Chong Un-chae, ordinary of South Korean Chondoism, and leading personnel of its central headquarters to Pyongyang.

South Students Demand No Tae-u's Resignation
SK1703045689 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0445 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The South Korean people are fiercely fighting against the No Tae-u group's anti-popular moves every day, according to a report.

About 5,000 students of 38 universities including Seoul and Sogang Universities under the Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils held rallies separately on March 15 demanding the resignation of the No Tae-u "government."

At the rallies, the students held that the "interim evaluation" must not be "evaluation of policy" but "national referendum on confidence." They demanded the "immediate resignation of the present 'government' wholly responsible for the Kwangju massacre and the irregularities of the Fifth Republic."

They urged the opposition parties to join them in the "movement of non-confidence in No Tae-u."

The "National Council of Student Representatives" decided to combine the spring action of workers for vital rights with the "non-confidence movement" against the traitor No Tae-u and vowed to intensify the solidarity movement for the struggle of the workers.

Over 4,000 Labour Union members of the Seoul Subway Company launched a general strike on the early morning of March 16 after several days of struggle demanding the resignation of the venal director of the company, the implementation of the collective contract and stop to the suppression of the Labour Union.

To cope with a possible arrest of the present executive committee of the Labour Union by police, they formed the headquarters of struggle and an interim executive and reaffirmed their determination to fight with death.

Upset by the forceful action of the Labour Union members of the Seoul Subway Company, displaying their indomitable will, the fascist clique dispatched 15,000 police to the surrounding areas of the sit-down strike and subway stations and is running amuck to disperse the protesters.

Earlier, about 5,000 workers in Songnam area, Kyonggi Province, held a Songnam workers rally for vital rights including the abrogation of the evil labour law and wage hike.

After the rally, they marched toward the puppet Songnam City Hall, upholding torchlights.

Some 1,700 students of Chungang, Tanguk and Sejong Universities in Seoul on March 15 held a fierce demonstration demanding a halt to the adventurous "Team Spirit 89" joint military maneuvers.

They charged that the reckless "Team Spirit 89" involving over 200,000 troops is obstructing the efforts of the entire Korean people for national reunification.

That day, about 2,000 students of Hanyang University in Seoul held an emergency meeting of students at the open-air theatre in the school and decided to boycott classes for campus autonomy.

The staff union members of Kyonghui University in Seoul who had been on strike since March 9 for higher salaries brought the university management to its knees and pushed through their demand on March 15.

Chonminnyon Urges End to Social Security Law
SK1703104489 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1041 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The "National Alliance of the Movement for the Nation and Democracy" (Chonminnyon) made public a statement on March 11 urging the complete abolition of a fascist law, according to a report of the South Korean paper TONG-A ILBO.

Upset by the struggle of the South Korean people of broad sections against the "Social Security Law," the No Tae-u fascist clique is seeking to cook up a "law of supervision for public peace" instead of it in order to coax them. Denouncing this, the statement pointed out that this law also "will be an evil law for the supervision and control of political prisoners by the 'government'."

It urged the puppet authorities to release at once the prisoners of conscience who are detained in the "prison of care and custody" under the fascist "Social Security Law".

Ho Tam, Delegation Leave Beijing 15 March
SK1703080389 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean
1300 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Text] The delegation of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] led by Comrade Ho Tam, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the WPK, visited Beijing, China, from 13 to 14 March.

On 13 March a banquet was held for the delegation in Beijing. Invited to the banquet were members of the delegation; Chu Chang-chun, DPRK ambassador to the PRC; and functionaries of the embassy, as well as Wu Xueqian, member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau and vice premier of the State Council; Zhu Liang, head of the party Central Committee International Liaison Department; and Zhu Shangqing, deputy head of the International Liaison Department, and other persons concerned.

At the banquet Comrade Wu Xueqian and Comrade Ho Tam made addresses to mark the occasion. The banquet participants toasted to the long life of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il, respected Comrade Deng Xiaoping, Comrade Zhao Ziyang, and Comrade Yang Shangkun. the banquet was held in a friendly atmosphere.

The delegation toured the Beijing library and Daguan-yuan on 14 March. The WPK delegation left Beijing this evening by plane after completing its visit to the PRC. It was seen off at the airport by Zhu Ling, head of the CPC Central Committee International Liaison Department, Zhu Shangqing, deputy head of the International Liaison Department; and Chu Chang-kun, our country's ambassador to the PRC.

Soviet Public Circles Condemn 'Team Spirit'
SK1703101089 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1003 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The Soviet public circles bitterly denounce the "Team Spirit 89" joint military maneuvers and demand that the United States and South Korea begin dialogue with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on issues of great importance in stabilising the situation of the Korean peninsula, said TASS March 15 quoting a statement of the Central Committee of the Soviet-Korean Friendship Society.

Noting that, although the United States and the South Korean puppets pay lip service to "detente" on the Korean peninsula and "dialogue" between the North and the South, their acts obviously contradict their words, the statement said: Judging from everything, they are deliberately delaying the settlement of the military and political problems.

TASS March 14 said:

The sponsors of the exercises try to camouflage them and assert that they have a purely defensive nature and pursue the aim of drilling "defensive operations" against "the menace from the North".

They do not exhibit the slightest striving to bring their policy in the region in keeping with the overall tendencies of the improvement of the international climate. What is more, they continue the course at stepping up military preparations.

Radio Moscow noted that the 14th "Team Spirit" joint military exercises assume provocative nature either in the military or in the political point of view.

This naturally creates danger to the future of the North-South dialogue and complicates the situation on the Korean peninsula and contradicts the detente in the Asia-Pacific region as a whole, stressed the radio.

40th Anniversary of Accord With USSR Noted

Premier Receives Greetings

SK1603234089 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1503 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—A message of greetings came to Premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk from the Council of Ministers of the USSR on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the signing of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The message says this document based on the complete equality of both sides for the first time in the history of the Soviet-Korean relations laid a solid foundation for broad cooperation in economic, cultural and other domains which are today successfully developing in favour of socialist construction in the two countries.

It sincerely wishes the premier and all the fraternal working people of the DPRK new success in realising the vast socio-economic development plan of the DPRK set at the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea and in their struggle to reunify Korea peacefully on a democratic basis.

Papers Mark Occasion

SK1703054589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0528 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Papers here today mark the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the agreement on economic and cultural cooperation between Korea and the Soviet Union.

NODONG SINMUN says in a signed article entitled "40 Years of Friendship and Cooperation" that a new occasion was provided to further develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries by the conclusion of this agreement, and goes on:

The agreement has contributed to strengthening economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries and promoting socialist and communist construction in Korea and the Soviet Union.

Today the Soviet people are developing in depth perestroika to accelerate socio-economic development under the leadership of the communist party of the Soviet Union led by Comrade Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev.

The Korean people rejoice at the successes of the fraternal Soviet people in socialist construction and fully support their efforts for world peace and security.

Today the Korean people are vigorously striving to fulfil ahead of schedule the 3rd seven-year plan holding high the banner of the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, and realise national reunification under the wise leadership of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea headed by respected Comrade Kim Il-song.

The Soviet people express support and solidarity for the struggle of the Korean people for socialist construction and the peaceful reunification of the country. The friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and the Soviet Union will grow stronger and develop in conformity with the interests and will of the two peoples in the spirit agreed upon at the summit meetings of the two countries.

Minister Heads Consumers Delegation to USSR
SK1603155589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1512 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Central Federation of Korean Consumers' Cooperatives headed by Han Chang-kun, minister of commerce, left Pyongyang today by plane for the Soviet Union.

Argentine delegate Marcelo Von Schmeling and Sudanese delegate Amir Mahmoud who are members of the Permanent Commission of the International Preparatory Committee for the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students arrived in Pyongyang by plane yesterday.

Foreign Officials Arrive for Youth Festival
SK1703104989 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1044 GMT 17 Mar 89

["Visits"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Andreas Meszaros, general secretary of the International Committee of Children's and Adolescents Movements, and Thomas

Gnzinga Du, delegate of the All-African Union of Students who is a member of the permanent commission of the international preparatory committee for the 13th WFYS [World Festival of Youth and Students], arrived here today by air.

WPK Greetings Sent to Foreign Communist Parties

Dominican Republic's 4th Congress
SK1603120589 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1034 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent a message of greetings today to the 4th congress of the Dominican Communist Party.

The message notes that the 4th congress of the party convened amid the deep interest of the Dominican Communists and working people will mark an important occasion in strengthening the party and accomplishing its just cause.

We extend firm solidarity to your party in the struggle to defend the national rights of the working masses of the people, attain a democratic development of the country, and guarantee world peace and security against the imperialists' intervention and war moves, and sincerely wish it great success in the work of its congress and in implementing the decisions of the congress, says the message.

Italy's 18th Congress
SK1703102489 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to the 18th Congress of the Italian Communist Party.

The message says that during the period under review the Italian Communist Party, representing the interests of broad working masses, has made a vigorous struggle to organize and mobilize all progressive forces in the cause of the country's democratic development and social progress, check the arms race and the danger of war and safeguard peace and security in the world.

We are rejoiced over all the achievements of the party and express positive support and firm solidarity for the just cause of your party, it points out, and says:

Convinced that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties will grow stronger and develop in the common struggle for world peace and socialism, we sincerely wish your party big success in the work of the congress.

Belgium's 26th Congress

SK1703103689 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1032 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK], on March 17 sent a message of greetings to the 26th Congress of the Communist Party of Belgium. We believe that your congress will contribute to the activity of your party to defend peace and democracy and safeguard the rights and interests of the working people and strengthen the solidarity with the left forces of Europe, says the message.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties will continuously strengthen and develop in the future, the message wishes the party congress great success in its work.

Mongolian People's Army Day Commemorated

Defense Minister Sent Greetings

SK1703105289 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1048 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, sent a message of greetings to Colonel General J. Yondon, minister of defence of the Mongolian People's Republic, on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of founding of the Mongolian People's Army. The Mongolian People's Army was founded in the sacred struggle to liberate the country from the yoke of foreign aggressors and made a great contribution to defending the revolutionary gains and the security of the country, the message says.

Expressing the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples and armies of Korea and Mongolia will further expand and develop, the message sincerely wishes the defence minister and the officers and men of the Mongolian People's Army new success in the work to increase the defence capabilities of the country.

Soldiers Meeting Marks Event

SK1703043489 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0426 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—A soldiers' meeting was held at the unit of the Korean People's Army to which Comrade Kim Chae-yon belongs on March 16 on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the founding of the Mongolian People's Army.

Charge D'Affaires ad interim Janchivdorjiin Lombo [spelling as received] and officials of the Mongolian Embassy in Pyongyang were invited to the meeting of the soldiers of the unit.

Speeches were exchanged at the meeting.

Special Ugandan Envoy Ends 4-Day Visit

SK1603153689 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 1514 GMT*
16 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 16 (KCNA)—E. Kategaya, first deputy prime minister of Uganda, who had visited Korea as a special envoy of Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, left here for home today after his 4-day visit.

He was seen off at the airport by Vice-Premier Chong Chun-ki and Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Kim Yong-yong.

During his stay the special envoy visited Mangyongdae and went round the construction site of Kwangbok Street, Chongchun Street and other places.

Kim Chong-il Sends Replies to Foreign Leaders

SK1703045089 *Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT*
17 Mar 89

[Text] Pyongyang March 17 (KCNA)—Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il sent messages to party and state leaders of foreign countries in reply to their messages of greetings on his birthday.

The replies were sent to Didier Ratsiraka, general secretary of the Malagasy Vanguard of Revolution and president of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar; Captain Blaise Compaore, chairman of the People's Front and head of state and Government of Burkina Faso; Mathieu Kerekou, chairman of the Central Committee of the Party of the People's Revolution of Benin, president of the Republic, head of the state and chairman of the National Executive Council; Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic and secretary general of the Polisario Front; France Albert Rene, general secretary of the Seychelles People's Progressive Front and president of the Republic of Seychelles; Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Mengistu Haile Mariam, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Ethiopia and president of the People's Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; His Highness Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, president of Democratic Kampuchea; and Yasir Arafat, chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The messages expressed the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Workers' Party and people of Korea and the parties and peoples of the above countries would grow stronger and develop in the future and sincerely wished them bigger success in their work to strengthen the party and build a new society.

Comrade Kim Chong-il also sent reply messages to Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba; Celestino Rocha Da Costa, prime minister and head of government of the

Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and chairman of the Sao Tome and Principe-Korea Friendship Association; Dr. Rifat al-Mahgub, speaker of the People's Assembly of the Arab Republic of Egypt; Dr. Vasos Lissaridhis, president of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Cyprus; and Dominic Mintoff, former prime minister of the Republic of Malta.

Building Materials Committee Upgraded to Ministry
SK1703011789 *Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean*
1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Decree issued by the Central People's Committee of the DPRK—read by announcer]

[Text] The Central People's Committee of the DPRK has decided to change the Construction and Building Materials Committee of the DPRK into the Ministry of Construction and Building Materials.

[Signed] DPRK President Kim Il-song, 16 March 1989

Correction to Student Delegation Issues Statement
SK1703021589

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "North Student Delegation Issues Statement," published in the 16 March East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23:

Column two, paragraph three, only sentence: ...support and help the talks. [new paragraph]

We believe that by increasing by 100 times their sense of hatred against the national splittists because today's talks were not realized, and by further consolidating the will of struggle for national salvation and reunification, the South Korean youths and students will continuously and boldly struggle to hasten the holding of the meeting between the youths and students of the North and South.

Expressing our understanding of Chondaehyop's revised proposal to hold North-South student talks in April to discuss its participation in the Pyongyang festival, our North side's student delegation expresses our expectations that our meeting with the Chondaehyop representatives will be realized without fail.

We believe that all Korean people and the world's progressive youths and students will sternly denounce the maneuvers of the divisionists at home and abroad, who are blocking North-South student talks and hindering the classmates of the South from participating in the Pyongyang festival, and will extend stronger support for and solidarity with the courageous struggle of the South Korean youths and students for national unity and reunification.

[Dated] 16 March (rewording and supplying additional paragraphs)

South Korea

Reactions to Procedures of Midterm Appraisal

Kim Yong-sam Urges Election
SK1703032089 *Seoul YONHAP in English* 0259 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, head of the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], Friday called for an election within two months if President No Tae-u loses an appraisal on his presidency.

"President No Tae-u should step down if he fails to win the confidence of the people, and immediately after his retirement, the prime minister should form an election management cabinet for a presidential election," Kim said.

Kim, addressing a party caucus, contended that the interim test, expected to be held next month, must be a confidence vote. The ruling camp says the presidency will not be at stake in the national referendum.

The president of the second largest opposition party, charging that the No government is only an extension of former President Chon Tu-hwan's rule, said, "Our party will launch a no-confidence campaign against No in cooperation with all democratic people."

The party plans mass rallies across the nation as part of its campaign, he said.

Kim Yong-sam Interview
SK1703072089 *Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean*
13 Mar 89 p 3

[Interview with Kim Yong-sam, president of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) at his residence in Sangdo-tong, by Yi Su-kun, deputy chief of a CHUNGANG ILBO department, on the afternoon of 12 March]

[Excerpts] As a result of successive talks between President No Tae-u and Kim Chong-pil, president of the New Democratic Republican Party, and between President No Tae-u and Kim Tae-chung, president of the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], the ruling and opposition parties have been promoting a compromise phase regarding a midterm appraisal. However, RDP President Kim Yong-sam rejected all compromise.

During an interview held at a reception room on the second floor of his Sangdo-tong residence on the afternoon of 12 March, Sunday, just like a resolute general who never considers a retreat, President Kim Yong-sam, who had chosen "war" at the crossroads of peace and war, stressed only a struggle for nonconfidence.

[Yi Su-kun] President Kim, why do you continuously insist on a confidence vote?

[Kim Yong-sam] What I have always stressed about the midterm appraisal is that President No must keep his promise and that this cannot be an issue that is solvable through negotiations.

From a moral standpoint, if one makes a promise, one must keep it. President No himself promised to link a midterm appraisal to confidence. Therefore, even if he puts his policies to a vote, this will automatically be a vote of confidence.

The most important thing is that there is no stability without the liquidation of the Fifth Republic. President No promised to receive a midterm appraisal after liquidating the Fifth Republic without exception, did he not? Therefore, I am asking him to keep his promise.

[Yi] Some people say that having a midterm appraisal in the form of a vote of confidence would violate the Constitution. What do you think?

[Kim] Some people say that because they don't want to see a confrontation between the ruling and opposition parties. This is a wrong way of thinking.

As a presidential candidate, President No made this promise beyond the realm of the Constitution.

The Constitution, which was in effect at the time he made this promise, has not been revised. He knew very well that if elected, his term would be guaranteed.

Then, why did he make this promise? He did so just to be elected, and he may have been elected because of this promise.

[Yi] But, when President No said that he would fulfill his promise for a midterm appraisal, the opposition side urged him not to do so. Is this not self-contradictory?

[Kim] He promised to liquidate the Fifth Republic without exception. Whether he liquidates the Fifth Republic or not is his business. I said that I would wage a struggle for nonconfidence if he tries to receive a midterm appraisal without liquidating the Fifth Republic.

Even though he must keep both promises, I cannot prevent him from fulfilling only one of the two promises.

[Yi] However, last year you said that you would guarantee his term of office, did you not?

[Kim] When I had a tete-a-tete with him last August, I said that I would help him if he liquidates the Fifth Republic. He said, "I will," and I believed him. I believed that the liquidation of the Fifth Republic would be completed by around last November. However, President No failed to liquidate the Fifth Republic, and, as a result, the situation has developed the way as you see now. Is it not correct?

It is impossible to achieve stability or make reforms without liquidating the Fifth Republic.

[Yi] When will you say that the Fifth Republic has been liquidated?

[Kim] Who played a major role in the irregularities of the Fifth Republic? Is it not Mr Chon Tu-hwan? Mr Chon and Mr Choe Kyu-ha must testify at any of the National Assembly hearings.

They must do so for us to see the truth. They must testify in order to prevent such people as Mr Chon from appearing in this country. (He elaborated on the irregularities of the Fifth Republic.) We must draw a historic lesson that no one will go scot-free if he commits crimes of this magnitude.

The one who is mainly responsible for the irregularities of the Fifth Republic and the Kwangju issue from every perspective must be held responsible. Without this, there is no stability. [passage omitted]

[Yi] President Kim. While insisting, for the time being, on such a demand [linking a midterm appraisal to a vote of confidence vote] to chime in with the off-stage forces and to trouble President Kim Tae-chung, you may reluctantly accept President Kim Tae-chung's offer later. Will you not do so?

[Kim] Reporter Yi. Do not continuously distort my remarks like that. You are a person who may cause trouble. I am not saying this with those people in mind. Of course, how can I not be conscious of my opposing party? However, what we truly must do is deal with political matters with the people in mind. [passage omitted]

[Yi] Can you not seek a greater compromise in tripartite talks and four-way talks in Chongwadae?

[Kim] PPD Secretary General Yi Chae-kun once talked about tripartite talks. However, no one has officially mentioned four-way talks. I do not think it is necessary for us to meet.

[Yi] Will you not carry out politics with the other two Kims?

[Kim] It is not necessary to talk about this matter any more at this time.

As a result of talks between President No and President Kim Tae-chung, we have crossed the bridge of no return. Therefore we have no reason to meet. Also, I will not be deceived any more.

[Yi] In summing up your remarks so far, it seems to me that there is no turning back.

[Kim] Because this regime has not liquidated the Fifth Republic and because, as a result, it has no moral legitimacy, various problems have taken place.

Timing is important in dealing with issues. They could have solved the issue of midterm appraisal if they had put a stitch in time. Now, they will not be able to solve this issue even if they put nine stitches in.

Politics should give dreams to the people.

* Poll of Views

41070063 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean
24 Jan 89 p 3

[Article by Yi Yu-sik: "An Analysis of 220 Political Scientists' Views on Midterm Evaluation"]

[Excerpts] The midterm evaluation [of President No's accomplishments], the nation's foremost political issue, together with the local autonomy system, has emerged as the focus of the nation's concern since the beginning of the year. This has created a delicate mood among the three opposition parties, not to mention tension between the ruling and the opposition parties.

Since President No's New Year's news conference, the four major political parties have been confronting the question of whether or not to carry out the midterm evaluation, what its characteristics should be, how it should be carried out and the timing for such an evaluation. Although the opposition circles in general are maintaining cautious attitudes, the Reunification Democratic Party refuted the idea of the irrelevance between the midterm evaluation and a confidence vote. Chon-minyon [National Coalition of the Movement for Democracy and the Nation], a newly organized dissident groups' unified organization, made it clear that they will consider the midterm evaluation an occasion for opposing President No.

The major issue of the three opposition party presidents' meeting on the 24th was the midterm evaluation, so sooner or later the political circles are expected to have a go-round on this issue.

The purpose of HANGUK ILBO's recent poll on the midterm evaluation among 220 domestic political scientists was not only to understand their views on the political and legal significance of the midterm evaluation, but also to establish a basis for such an evaluation, and to offer suggestions to the political leaders as they make decisions about the future.

The political scientists' responses can be summarized as follows: The midterm evaluation should be conducted from the moral point of view that President No pledged such an evaluation. It should be in the form of a national referendum, similar to a popular vote for president; and in this case, the referendum should take on the characteristic of a vote of confidence.

Furthermore, based on the presidential election campaign promises, the evaluation should be based on whether the sins of the Fifth Republic have been cleared away, how much has been accomplished toward democratization, and more broadly, the Sixth Republic's overall accomplishments.

The previous dispute in the ruling circles as to whether such an evaluation should be carried out or not became meaningless after the president's news conference. Since 81 percent of the respondents insisted that the evaluation should be conducted, and 16 percent said that it should be a presidential decision, the point at issue is now focused on the detailed content of the evaluation. The 2 percent response that the evaluation was unnecessary only points out that the midterm evaluation is a candidate's promise, not a constitutional obligation.

As to the nature of the midterm evaluation, which is the hottest issue; 61.8 percent responded that it should be a vote of confidence, 11.8 percent argued that the evaluation should not be related to a vote of confidence, and 22 percent were willing to rely on the president's judgment. The result indicated that as of now at least the ruling circle's idea of a "midterm evaluation to guarantee the president's term" does not have persuasive power.

The responses concerning a vote of confidence were based mainly on two premises: that it was already implicitly implied in the presidential campaign promises; and that the present administration's legitimacy is considered relatively weak.

In other words, if the present administration, which is tied to the Fifth Republic, is trying to conduct the midterm evaluation simply as a political formality, it cannot avoid the consequences of instability due to damaged political morale. Thus it should take this opportunity to reaffirm its political leadership and show strong determination to sever relations from the sins of the previous authoritarian government.

As for the evaluation criteria, 74 percent indicated the most important was the "cleanup of the Fifth Republic's sins and initiation of democratization measures," and 26 percent saw it as the "overall accomplishments of the Sixth Republic up to the midterm evaluation." This implied that the midterm evaluation should be considered a measure to test the democratization policy and legitimacy of the present administration.

On the other hand, the 34 percent who responded negatively to such a vote of confidence emphasized the constitutional spirit which guaranteed a 5-year presidential term, and argued that a midterm evaluation should be limited in scope to asking for a national consensus on the political accomplishments so far, and its results should be utilized as an important basis in effectuating

policies. Some of the 34 percent warned against a possibility of abuse in a vote of confidence, using it as a means to maintain dictatorial power as in the Yushin period; and some indicated that it should not be taken too seriously.

Some of the responses to such a midterm evaluation insisted that the three opposition leaders should also be included in a vote of confidence, together with the president; and that the occasion should be considered a full-scale reorganization of political circles.

As for the evaluation method, 80 percent suggested a national referendum, which outnumbered the percentage suggesting a simple vote of confidence, by a large margin. Even if the evaluation is not a vote of confidence, the method should be in the form of a national referendum.

Only 2.7 percent of those questioned approved a vote of confidence in the National Assembly. [sentence omitted]

There was a 13 percent favorable response to the idea of a public opinion poll, which is a compromise between a

national referendum and a vote in the National Assembly. It could be effective since it would not be a formal vote of confidence and it would save the costs of a national referendum.

As for the timing of the evaluation, 42 percent responded to "after completion of cleaning up the Fifth Republic's sins"; 21 percent, to "within the 1st half of this year"; and 18 percent, to "within the 2d half of this year." If this is related to the response to a vote of confidence, it can be analyzed that even if the evaluation is in this form, it is more important to clean up the sins of the Fifth Republic than to ask the present administration to give up its power.

Since the current poll was conducted among political scientists, the result may not accurately represent the overall opinion of the people. However, the result does provide an important indication of the political circles' attitude toward the midterm evaluation. It shows a clear warning about the ruling circle's plan on the evaluation, and it also emphasizes that the midterm evaluation should be conducted by both the ruling and opposition parties in the spirit of carrying out the original campaign promise, and it looks with suspicion at the opposition parties' overly cautious attitudes.

Content of Questionnaires

1. Characteristics of the midterm evaluation

(1)	Should be a confidence vote	61.8%
(2)	Should not be a confidence vote	11.8%
(3)	President himself should decide	22.6%
(4)	Others	2.7%
(5)	No response	1.0%

2. Method of midterm evaluation

(1)	National referendum	80.1%
(2)	National Assembly vote	2.7%
(3)	Public opinion poll	12.9%
(4)	Others	3.7%
(5)	No response	0.5%

3. Timing of midterm evaluation

(1)	Within the 1st half of this year	21.0%
(2)	Within the 2d half of this year	17.7%
(3)	Sometime next year	15.0%
(4)	Anytime	10.2%
(5)	After cleanup of Fifth Republic's issues and carrying out democratization measures	41.9%
(6)	No response	0.5%

4. Content of midterm evaluation

(1)	Accomplishment in cleanup of the Fifth Republic's wrongdoings and democratization measures	73.6%
(2)	Foreign policy toward northern countries and reunification policies including South-North Korean relationship	9.7%
(3)	Constitutional reform including parliamentary-type cabinet system	8.0%
(4)	Dissolution of National Assembly	3.8%
(5)	Others	25.8%

(6)

No response

1.0%

Note: Cases whose sum of the individual percentage exceeds 100 percent indicate that the respondents selected those more than one choice.

No Sees Appraisal as Turning Point

SK1703065489 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u, firm in his determination to go ahead with a public appraisal of his presidency as soon as possible, predicted Friday it will be a "crucial turning point to decide the nation's fate."

"I know there is a broad range of opinion that the government should hold an interim appraisal as early as possible to restore stability in political, social and economic fields," No told leading prosecution officials at a lunch in their honor.

"Tenacious confrontations between the ruling and opposition parties over the appraisal have caused wastes of national power," No said, broadly hinting that he will soon announce the timing and method of the midterm test that he pledged during the presidential election campaign in 1987.

No's Democratic Justice Party and the three opposition parties have started preparations for the evaluation, which is expected in mid-April.

The ruling party and the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] are to hold rallies Saturday, when PPD President Kim Tae-chung is due to clarify how he will deal with the interim appraisal.

The Reunification Democratic Party [RDP], headed by Kim Yong-sam, will launch a nationwide anti-No campaign after he announces the timing and method of the appraisal, an RDP spokesman said. The RDP will also hold an outdoor rally Saturday.

Kim has demanded that No resign if he loses the evaluation and that a presidential election be held within 60 days.

No promised that if elected he would undergo an interim evaluation within one year after the Seoul Olympics and that if he lost he would take full responsibility, including early resignation.

Parties Prepare for 'Showdown'

SK1703012489 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Ruling and opposition parties have started full-fledged preparations for a showdown over President No Tae-u's interim evaluation, with each launching campaign task force teams.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party [DJP] yesterday formed the largest task force of 619 members to back No's bid to win the vote, which many party officials said will become a vote of confidence.

The team, headed by party chairman Pak Chun-kyu, comprises all of the party's 125 lawmakers, many former cabinet members and key local party chapter officials.

Yi Chun-ku, former home minister and once ex-President Chon Tu-hwan's closest aide, was named senior vice chairman of the committee.

The committee will be responsible for organizing all outdoor and indoor rallies for No which are expected to start in earnest late this month, a party spokesman said yesterday.

The nation's three opposition parties yesterday launched task force teams each led by party presidents which will lead campaigns to block No's bid to win the vote.

The opposition Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] which has taken the strongest line against No's interim test yesterday renamed the task force team the "Committee To Discredit No."

But a full-scale campaign showdown between the ruling and opposition parties is expected to begin late this month following No's promulgation of the voting date and method, expected early next week.

According to the revised national referendum law, both sides can stage indoor and outdoor rallies and hold debates on radio and TV during the designated campaign period.

The campaign officially kicks off with No's announcement of the voting date, widely expected to fall on April 12.

The campaign is not expected to heat up to the level of the last presidential election in December 1987.

The ruling party has decided to hold a "quiet" campaign, optimistic No will win comfortably.

A popular opinion poll conducted recently by the independent Seoul daily TONG-A ILBO showed that nearly half of the people polled replied that they will vote for No against roughly 27 percent who said they would vote against him.

The largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [RDP] led by Kim Tae-chung has shown lackluster interest in the vote, saying that it should become just a popular poll to measure popular approval of his leadership, not a vote of confidence.

The minor opposition New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] led by Kim Chong-pil, following the PPD line, has claimed that No should be allowed to serve out his single five-year term, regardless of the outcome of the popular vote.

Only Kim Yong-sam's RDP has vowed to launch a no-confidence vote against No largely to prove that he is somewhat different from his archrival Kim Tae-chung.

The opposition parties are expected to use the campaign to press for No to settle the irregularities of the ex-President Chon Tu-hwan era.

They said that the so-called Fifth Republic problems will never be solved until ex-Presidents Chon and Choe Kyu-ha testify before the National Assembly and six core figures of the Chon regime are prosecuted.

But Chon and Choe refused to appear at parliamentary hearings and have shown no intention to testify either at open or closed sessions.

Chon reportedly has expressed his willingness to testify before the Assembly only if his predecessor Choe also agrees to do so.

DJP Unsure of Formula

SK1703005289 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 2

[By staff reporter Sin Hak-nim: "Interim Appraisal in Any Form Sure To Affect No's Office"]

[Text] Whatever its formula may be, the results of the interim assessment of President No Tae-u's performance will in reality affect the rest of the popularly elected President's term.

But the ruling camp is racking its brains on whether to declare, at the outset, that the midterm assessment will be conducted in the form of a confidence vote with President No's term at stake.

A consensus has already been reached within the ruling camp that President No will win the popular confidence only if his office is at stake in the interim test.

A senior Democratic Justice Party [DJP] admitted that an absolute majority of DJP members and senior presidential staff members have insisted on linking the President's term to the results of the interim test.

However, the ruling camp felt that it was necessary to show the opposition camp that the interim test will not be held in the form of a vote of confidence, while Democratic Justice Party members on the other hand are preparing for an "all-out war" with the opposition over the interim test.

The DJP may have feared that an early declaration of its plan to conduct the interim test in the form of a confidence vote will trigger a unified opposition no-confidence campaign against No.

Even DJP chairman Pak Chun-kyu received a "warning" from President No when he disclosed the "genuine intention" of the ruling camp's strategy last week.

Pak made it clear in a press conference last Saturday, winding up his two-day stumping tour, that the President's five-year term will have to be affected by the results of the interim test, if No fails to receive a majority vote in the plebiscite.

The ruling camp found that such a strategy may be successful as President No won a promise from Kim Tae-chung, leader of the largest opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], during a meeting last week that his party would not join in a no-confidence campaign unless the interim test is held in the form of a confidence vote.

The PPD president's virtual withdrawal of his earlier agreement made among the three opposition leaders to form a united front against the ruling camp, in case a vote of confidence is conducted early without liquidating the evil legacies of the Fifth Republic, caused strong repercussions from the rival opposition Reunification Democratic Party led by Kim Yong-sam, who already was determined to unilaterally stage an all-out campaign to discredit President No.

In the meantime, Pak Chun-kyu and other senior party officers are calling upon cadre members of local chapters to devote all their energy to the event which they said will determine the future of the DJP administration.

Becoming aware of the ruling camp's "double-track" strategy, and in the face of strong censure from the RDP and dissident organization including "Chonminnyon," or the National Alliance for Democratic Movement, for its choice of a moderate course of action against the ruling camp, the PPD showed signs of withdrawing its prior position and decided to hold outdoor rallies from Saturday to "disapprove" No's policy performance.

After consultations with senior members of the administration yesterday, DJP secretary general Yi Chong-chan admitted that fear was expressed over Kim Tae-chung's change of position during the session.

In addition, the sudden resignation by Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap Tuesday may have encouraged hawks within the ruling camp to mount more aggressive efforts for an all-out war with the opposition over the interim test. DJP secretary general Yi also expressed his fear that Minister Kim's resignation will force the PPD to take a hardline stance.

PPD Lawmaker Presents Proposal

SK1703013289 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Mar 89 p 2

[By staff reporter Yi Song-yol: "Rep. Yu Chun-sang of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) Proposes Dual Control System for Nuke Energy"]

[Text] Among the 38 bills, motions and petitions passed in the National Assembly plenary session early this month was an extraordinary petition requesting a stay of the execution of a former boxing champion who beat a man to death.

The petition, introduced by Rep. Yu Chun-sang of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy, asked for exemption of capital punishment against Kim Mak-tong, former light-weight national champion, on the grounds that he deeply repents for what he did.

In a quarrel of words and blows, Kim killed a man years ago and was sentenced to life imprisonment. But in an appeals trial, he was given the death sentence.

"There are strong calls for abolition of capital punishment itself," Yu, who is not a human rights lawyer but a close deputy of opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, told the Korea Herald yesterday.

The parliamentary petition was the first of its kind, said Rep. Yu, 47 who chairs the Assembly Economy-Science Committee.

Yu showed a letter the imprisoned boxer recently wrote to him: "I truly appreciate your efforts and deeply regret what I did...."

Since the petition was passed by the Assembly, the Justice Ministry will now take the matter into consideration, Yu said.

As chairman of the Economy-Science Committee, Yu strongly opposes the monopoly on administration of nuclear power plants by the Energy Resources Ministry.

"As for nuclear plants Nos. 11 and 12, for example, the ministry tries to take charge of both technology development and security control.

"But for true security, a third organ must be entrusted with security checks and/or permission to build nuclear power plants," said Yu, calling for a dual-control system for nuclear energy.

He charged the two power plants were "politically" decided.

During the last Assembly session that ended Thursday, Yu clashed with the Energy-Resources Committee panelists over the issue.

He said his committee will push revision of the nuclear energy law in the next Assembly sitting to destroy the monopoly on nuclear affairs.

On the troublesome issue of an interim test of public confidence in the government of President No Tae-u, Yu has a bright idea.

Though it is not certain whether his idea will be accepted, Yu proposed that projected elections for local autonomy substitute for the interim test.

Then the nation will not have to have balloting twice in a year, omitting a national referendum for the interim test, Yu said.

But it is doubtful whether the ruling party would consider accepting the proposal, as the three opposition parties combined would certainly win in a majority of local autonomy elections.

"That would be the most reasonable way," Yu asserted.

The ruling camp, confident it would garner a majority of votes in a national referendum, has recently pledged to conduct the interim appraisal as early as next month.

"Whatever way the interim appraisal is conducted, it must be done only after the government settles the two issues over liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies and over democratization steps," Yu noted.

He warned about a possibility that if the No administration gets a majority vote in an early referendum, it may neglect the opposition call for the settlement of the crucial issues.

Regardless of the interim test, the No government must complete clearly the Fifth Republic issue and in addition implement various democratization measures, Yu demanded.

He represented the pessimistic view of the opposition on the interim test—that the opposition could garner nothing favorable through the interim appraisal, which No himself promised to conduct during his presidential campaign in late 1987.

Yu said the opposition would launch a no-confidence campaign against No if he pushes an early interim test.

In an unrelated matter, Yu was proud that during the last Assembly session, his committee passed a revision to the budget-accounting law aimed at abolishing a reserve fund.

Subway Workers Pledge To Return to Work
SK1703023089 Seoul YONHAP in English 0208 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Tough tactics appear to have broken the back of a strike that closed down the Seoul subway system Thursday and officials predicted a return to normal by early Saturday morning at the latest as workers flocked back to work.

One of the four lines of the metropolitan network resumed regular service early Friday morning as the first full-scale subway strike in 15 years lost steam.

About 2,200 of 2,344 strikers rounded up by police in a predawn swoop Thursday, were released early Friday after pledging to immediately return to work.

"The released workers are expected to be back on the job by early tomorrow morning after resting at home, and so the 116.5 kilometer metropolitan subway system will be back to normal by then," a spokesman for the Seoul Subway Corporation said.

About 10 union leaders, including union chairman Chong Yun-kwang, will be formally put under arrest later Friday on charges of staging an illegal strike and obstruction of justice.

Some 20 more key figures in planning or staging the work stoppage will also be arrested, a prosecutor said.

Before dawn on Thursday morning, some 6,000 riot police stormed a train depot in eastern Seoul and broke up a protest by thousands of strikers.

The union is demanding the resignation of corporation President Kim Myong-nyon and a halt to the alleged suppression of union activities.

The strike was declared illegal because the union did not honor the 15-day cooling-off period stipulated by the Labor Arbitration Law.

The subway corporation asked for mediation from the Central Labor Relations Committee when last-minute negotiations between the Seoul mayor and the union leadership collapsed.

And as the labor committee accepted the request, the subway workers were obliged to wait for 15 days before walking out.

Corporation head Kim Myong-nyon said union members who report to work Friday morning will not be punished.

The Seoul subway experienced a two-hour stoppage last June due to a similar job action.

Subway To Return To Normal Soon
SK1703003289 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 89 p 1

[Excerpt] The crippled operation of the Seoul subway system is likely to return to normal late this evening at the earliest as the majority of workers except some union leaders now under police interrogation are expected to be released today.

As less than 35 percent of unionized workers returned to their working sites as of 7 p.m. yesterday, it is hard to expect the normal operation of the subway to come back soon, said a Seoul City official.

However, one of the four lines of the metropolitan network went into regular service early this morning.

As of this morning, about 1,200 out of 2,344 striking workers who were whisked away by police at a predawn crackdown Thursday, had been released and sent back to their positions.

Transport disruptions may be minimized by the city administration's plans to avert terrific traffic snarls, it was also reported.

Kim Myong-nyon, president of the Seoul Subway Corp., said union-member workers who report to work not later than 4 a.m. today are to be cleared from legal punishment.

About 30 union leaders, including union chairman Chong Yun-kwang now in police custody are expected to face arrest today on charges of staging the illegal strike and business obstruction. [passage omitted]

Daily on Crackdown on Strike
SK1703010489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 89 p 3

[By staff reporter Han Tong-su: "Crackdown Aimed To Nip 'Spring Struggle' in Bud"]

[Text] The government's crackdown on militant Seoul subway union workers yesterday was said to be a well-calculated action aimed at driving in a wedge against the dissident labor movement now bracing itself for the "spring struggle."

The government has regarded the recent protest by unionized subway workers as a part of the "spring offensive" orchestrated by the united front of dissidents and labor activists.

The general strike of Seoul subway workers was viewed as a touchstone for future courses of action by the dissident labor movement.

The Council of Seoul Labor Unions, Federation of Seoul Students Councils and two other dissident organizations pledged to launch a joint struggle in solidarity with the Seoul subway union workers when the Seoul Subway Corporation became embroiled in the labor-management dispute.

Some analysts in the government even interpreted the active support for the striking subway workers by dissident bodies, including Chonminnyon, the National Alliance of Democratic Movement, as part of their political struggle to dethrone President No Tae-u using his upcoming mid-term appraisal.

The government was also worried about the ripple effect of the general strike by subway workers on the government-invested and private firms, especially in the face of the spring season when labor and management negotiate to set wage scales and working conditions.

It also worried that the subway workers protest may set a bad precedent for workers in other businesses and all sectors of Korean society.

The possibility of students' joining forces with the labor movement in April, a volatile month of student protests traditionally, has been the nightmare of government policymakers.

That is said to be the reason why the government was so swift in putting an end to the subway workers protest this time.

Opinion of the general public fed up with the perennial threat of strikes by subway workers apparently encouraged the government to crack down on the striking subway workers.

The labor union of the Seoul Subway Corporation has threatened to go on strike as many as four times since its inauguration in early 1988.

Whenever the labor union put up protests, demanding wage hikes, improvement of working conditions and even dismissal of the corporation president, the corporation and Seoul City administration yielded to their demands in fear of the stoppage of the metropolitan public transportation system.

In the midst of the off-and-on tug of war between the labor and management, Pae Il-to, former leader of the labor union, was arrested by the law enforcement authorities on embezzlement charges late last year.

Striking workers' demand for the release of Pae was one of the major obstacles hindering the settlement of the 16-day labor dispute. Unionists also demanded the dismissal of Kim Myong-nyon, subway corporation president, and prosecutors' dropping of charges against the union leaders who masterminded the recent four-day "free-ride protest."

As for the unionists' demands, Seoul Mayor Ko Kon said in the meeting with the union leaders Wednesday that he cannot accept the demands because decisions are up to the judiciary.

President No's reproach of the Seoul City mayor during his recent inspection tour to the municipal authorities apparently prompted the city administration to take a hardline stance in coping with the strike.

In the inspection tour, No rebuked in high tones Seoul city officials for their lukewarm attitude in dealing with the subway workers' free-ride protest, telling them that it is tantamount to a dereliction of official duty for them to remain helplessly in the face of the illegal labor action.

The stubbornness of militant subway workers who took a collision course only for the sake of the "cause" was cited as another factor which brought about the unhappy denouement of the labor dispute.

The attitude of the corporation management who are too much dependent on the government power and who fail to meet the labor union's demands astutely before the situation worsens, were also cited as another factor that aggravated the labor unrest.

Government Toughens Illegal Labor Actions Stance
SK1703005889 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 2

[Text] The government will get tough with unlawful labor disputes and demonstrations now rampant these days, "climbing on the bandwagon of democratic reforms," a high-ranking government official said yesterday.

The resolute will of the government to maintain order and public peace against violent actions of dissidents, workers, students and others could be attested to by "yesterday's exercise of state power to disperse subway workers on a wildcat strike," he said.

Terming the mobilization of police troops to quell the strikers as a "signal" of the government's determination, the official said, "Authorities will never tolerate illegal activities, whatever they are."

"Not to do so is a dereliction of our duty," he argued.

"From now on, the government will never sit idle (against any deeds violating laws and destroying order in society), he stressed.

For the past days, President No Tae-u has stressed the need of exercising state power against violent and illegal activities, mostly concerning labor disputes and demonstrations.

Then, the official contended, "Opposition parties are even boosting radical activities, pressing the law enforcement authorities not to punish those who committed such action."

Referring to the recent campus disturbances over the raise in tuition fees, election of school presidents and others, the official said that the government would never intervene in school affairs.

"The state power will be exercised only when there is a request from school authorities," he said.

School authorities and professors should bear all responsibilities for what is taking place on campus, he stressed.

"The government will only supervise whether each school abides by the law in academic affairs. If students fail to finish the yearly required class hours (due to boycotting class), all of them should get plucked, he noted.

Minister on Measures Against Radical Students
SK1703010089 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] Asan, Chungchongnam-to—The dignity of school authorities should be preserved even in cases of campus turmoil, said Education Minister Chong Won-sik here yesterday here in his meeting with top administrators of colleges and universities in Chungchongnam-to.

Announcing stern measures to curb campus disturbances, the Education Minister said radical students should be made to pay for damages of school facilities during campus demonstrations.

Chong said campus administrators and faculty members should double-up their efforts to keep the ivory tower from being dominated by activist students.

Police Break Up Student Demonstration
SK1703025889 Seoul YONHAP in English 0238 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Police broke up an anti-government demonstration by about 20 student activists inside the headquarters of the ruling Democratic Justice Party Friday morning.

Five of the students were injured and they were all arrested when 100 riot policemen charged into the building 30 minutes after the sit-in protest began at 7:25 a.m.

Members of the radical student group Sochongnyon [Seoul District Federation of General Student Councils] assaulted the party headquarters with firebombs, steel pipes and bars and made their way into the eighth floor, where they staged the protest for about 30 minutes before being hauled away.

They took over the eighth floor, chanting anti-government slogans and hanging a placard out of the window that read "Down with the mastermind of the 1980 Kwangju uprising No Tae-u."

Floor Leaders Fail To Agree on Chon Testimony
SK1703031489 Seoul YONHAP in English 0246 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Floor leaders of the ruling and opposition parties met Thursday but failed to agree on the format of testimony by former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and Choe Kyu-ha on corruption and other issues in the previous government or even if they should testify at all.

The ruling Democratic Justice Party insisted the former presidents testify indirectly, answering questionnaires given to them by the National Assembly panels investigating misdeeds of Chon's era.

Opposition floor leaders, however, said Chon and Choe should give testimony in the Assembly, reiterating the position adopted by the heads of the three opposition parties weeks ago.

The Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] took the toughest stance, demanding that the former chief executives appear before the assembly in person.

But ruling party floor leader Kim Yun-hwan hinted there was room for compromise with the opposition by saying, "More studies are needed for each side on the testimony issue."

The ruling party has so far sided with the two former presidents, who have refused to testify in the hearings. Choe was president in 1980 when Chon emerged as military strongman en route to the presidency.

Chon, who took over from Choe as president, has been in self-imposed rural exile for four months after apologizing for his misdeeds during his seven-year authoritarian rule. The issue is a heavy political burden for his successor, President No Tae-u.

The floor leaders also differed on handling "core figures," the chief suspects in Chon administration scandals.

Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] demanded simply "actions" against the six figures, but Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party insisted they face "judiciary actions."

The ruling party opposed both the opposition demands.

The six suspects include Rep. Chong Ho-yong, a close friend of No's and a former army chief of staff and defense and home minister, Rep. Yi Won-cho, another

of No's friends who was nicknamed "emperor in the financial circle," and An Mu-hyok, a former director of the powerful Agency for National Security Planning.

These two issues—testimony by the former presidents and action against the core figures—will be the focal point of a national referendum expected in mid-april, analysts say.

No has vowed to hold an interim appraisal of his presidency as early as April. But the opposition wants the appraisal to be conducted only after No has dealt with the negative legacies of the previous administration.

In response to No's plan to hold an early appraisal, the RDP declared a nationwide campaign against the government.

Analysts said the PPD and the NDRP, which have taken a more moderate position on the assessment, may also launch an anti-No movement.

Former Myongsong Chairman Testifies at Assembly

Discusses Golf Memberships

SK1703004489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 2

[Text] Kim Chol-ho, former chairman of the disbanded Myongsong business group, testified before the House that he did not donate free golf memberships to leading figures of the Fifth Republic including then sports minister No Tae-u and division commander Pak Se-chik for influence peddling.

During a House hearing into the Fifth Republic business irregularities yesterday, Kim only admitted that he had sold a membership to then vice sports minister Yi Yong-ho at a discounted rate.

Kim, taking the witness stand in his capacity as a prisoner serving a 17-year jail term, was fielding questions from opposition lawmaker Sim Wan-ku on suspected buying off of the mentioned figures with golf membership coupons to feed his business.

Rep. Sim of the opposition Reunification Democratic Party contended that a total of 16 ranking government officials including the above mentioned figures were given memberships in the Yongin Country Club, a Myongsong subsidiary.

Rep. Choe Nak-to of the Party for Peace and Democracy questioned if Yi Kyu-tong, father-in-law of former president Chon Tu-hwan, was behind the quick rise of Myongsong to the status of a big business group within a few years.

Rep. Choe contended Chon was involved in the takeover by the Korea Explosives Group of Myongsong in September, 1985.

As a result, the Korea Explosives group enjoyed "tremendous favor" in the takeover by not having to take on the 1,660 billion won in debt left by the Myongsong.

Meanwhile, lawmakers also questioned Yang Chong-mo, former chairman of the Kukje ICC group, and Kwon Chol-hyon, former owner of Yonhap Iron and Steel on the forced dismantling of their business groups.

Meanwhile, Chang Sang-tae, president of Tongkuk Steel, Kim Yong-san, chairman of Kukdong Construction, Kim Chung-won, chairman of Hanil business group failed to show up at the House hearings for "personal" reasons. They were summoned to testify on the forced dismantling of the Kukje group.

Kim U-chung chairman of the Daewoo business group, also did not appear at the House witness stand in connection with the takeover of Kyongnam Industrial, while Nam Uk, vice president of the Korea Explosives Group failed to appear over the Myongsong business scandal.

Ruling camp lawmakers boycotted the hearing as they did the latest hearing on the Kwangju incident.

No's Golf Membership Denied

SK1703004689 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 2

[Text] Presidential spokesman Yi Su-chong denied an allegation of Rep. Sim Wan-ku of the Reunification Democratic Party that President No Tae-u received a golf membership.

The spokesman said, "President No neither received nor possessed the membership."

He said that an investigation would be conducted to find how such an allegation could have been made.

Labor Disputes To Continue Export Slowdown

SK1703020089 Seoul YONHAP in English 0147 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—In spite of a slight recovery in the arrival of letters of credit (L/C) in March, South Korea's export slowdown will continue due to structural factors such as labor disputes, the Korea Foreign Trade Association forecast Friday.

During the first 15 days of March, L/C arrivals, which predict exports two or three months ahead, were up 14.1 percent over the previous year at 1.512 billion U.S.

dollars, after consecutive drops of 9 percent last December, 4.7 percent in January and 0.3 percent in February. Arrivals increased a monthly average of more than 20 percent last year, according to association data.

Association officials, however, expect an export slump because the recovery in L/C arrivals is unable to boost exports, which have been hit by long labor disputes in the automobile and shipbuilding sectors.

There was a trade deficit of 646 million dollars in the first two weeks of this month, bringing this year's trade deficit to 536 million dollars.

Exports amounted to 1.779 billion dollars, up 8.1 percent over the like period a year earlier, while imports reached 2.425 billion dollars, up 38.5 percent.

Exports so far this year were up 8.2 percent to 10.513 billion dollars as of Wednesday from the corresponding period of 1988, while imports swelled 21.9 percent to 11.049 billion dollars, according to association data.

Textile Export Increase, Level Value Predicted
SK1703064889 Seoul YONHAP in English 0617 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea's textile exports will reach 15.3 billion U.S. dollars, up 9.1 percent from a year earlier in terms of money, but will remain at about the same level as last year in terms of volume, a government think-tank predicted Friday.

Shipment to the United States, Korea's major market, will not exceed last year's level because of weak demand and bulging stocks in that country, according to a report by the Korea Institute of Economics and Technology.

The broad erosion of export markets by China and other developing nations poses another challenge for the Korean exporters, the report said.

It said exports to Japan might, however, surpass those to the United States for the first time this year, and sales of high-quality garments will boom in the European community.

Exports of garments and cloth goods will total 10.7 billion dollars, compared with 3.6 billion dollars for fabrics, the report predicted.

More Textile Makers To Move Production Abroad
SK1703082689 Seoul YONHAP in English 0820 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (OANA-YONHAP)—A growing number of Korean textile makers will move their production set-ups abroad with government analysts predicting the number to top 100 this year.

Officials at the Trade and Industry Ministry said Friday 30 to 50 firms are expected to make inroads abroad, mostly to Southeast Asian countries, this year in search of more favourable production as well as export opportunities.

Currently, 74 firms have extended their operations outside of the country with their combined investments totaling 56.6 million U.S. dollars, the officials said, adding more will invest in Southeast Asia rather than in Latin America, shifting their emphasis away from the U.S. market.

The textile makers move their operations abroad to capitalize on lower wages, secure a stable supply of raw materials or to evade quotas on exports to the United States and Western Europe, but are now setting up direct sales outlets in such up-end markets, according to the officials.

Sales will double this year to 250 million dollars by those firms doing business abroad, they said.

Cabinet Urges No To Veto Four Bills
SK1703003889 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] The Cabinet yesterday recommended that President No Tae-u veto four bills—each on medical insurance, labor dispute arbitration, labor unions and a local autonomy system—which the opposition-dominated Assembly passed last week.

Of the four, the bill on medical insurance and another on labor dispute arbitration were passed jointly by the ruling and opposition parties.

The two jointly enacted bills will be the first ones to be vetoed by No though they have gone through the legislature with the consent of the government party.

Hon Hong-chu, director of the Office of Legislation said after a regular Cabinet session he is convinced that the President would honor the recommendation. The opposition has constituted a working majority at the parliament but does not have sufficient number of seats to override the Presidential action.

The medical insurance bill is aimed at providing all citizens with insurance in a bold, uniform step. The labor dispute arbitration bill authorizes employees working at defense industries to stage collective actions.

Of the two other bills which the Cabinet members asked No to veto in their three hours of "hot debates," one stipulates that local councils be formed at larger local administrations by this year-end and the other provides for collective bargaining for low-echelon government officials.

The Cabinet members determined that the local autonomy system be introduced for smaller district such as counties, small cities and wards of metropolitan cities ahead of larger areas like provinces and special cities, as stipulated in the revised bill.

Association on PPD, CHOSON ILBO Dispute
SK1703013489 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] The Korean Newspapers Association yesterday expressed "grave" concern over the recent disputes between the CHOSON ILBO and the No. 1 opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], saying the situation is developing in a way undesirable for the protection of freedom of the press and political party activities.

In a statement, the association said the ongoing clash is a waste of energy and is far from desirable for the creation of a democratic system through the development of mass media and appropriate political party activities.

"If the dispute is developed as a pressure, either direct or indirect, on free press activities, we fear this may affect greatly the news media," it said.

It requested the two sides to control their sentiments and restrain mutual accusations pending a court ruling.

PPD Says Vatican Unaware of 'Alleged Rudeness'
SK1703013689 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
17 Mar 89 p 3

[Text] The Holy See has no knowledge about the alleged rudeness reportedly shown by a Korean opposition party member during his recent audience with Pope John Paul, the Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD] quoted Archbishop Ivans Dias, apostolic pro-nuncio of the Holy See in Seoul as saying.

In a press release yesterday, the PPD said that Archbishop Dias confirmed that the Vatican has no intention whatsoever to take issue with the "alleged rudeness" of a PPD lawmaker when he and Italian Amb. Graziella Simbolotti joined a luncheon meeting with PPD leaders at the private mansion of Kim Tae-chung on March 14.

Approaching Rep. Yu In-hak, who was alleged by the CHOSON ILBO to have said the offending "hey" to the pope during an audience at the Vatican last month, Dias gave consoling words and confirmed "there was no problem whatsoever with the controversial article," it said.

KBS Planning To Receive Pyongyang Television
SK1703074189 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean
17 Mar 89 p 16

[Excerpts] It was learned on 17 March that in an effort to get material necessary for making programs on North Korea, after mapping out a plan to directly receive North Korean television, the Korean Broadcasting System [KBS] has begun to prepare for it. [passage omitted]

KBS is planning to install relay antennas at a frontline area to receive [North] Korea Central Television, to form a "microwave link," and to receive signals at its Namsan transmission site. [passage omitted]

An official concerned at the Ministry of Communications said, "Receiving Korea Central Television does not violate the current Radio Regulation Law."

Foreign Minister To Meet Japanese Counterpart
SK1703032689 Seoul YONHAP in English 0303 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung and Sosuke Uno, his Japanese counterpart, will meet at the fourth regular foreign ministers' meeting on April 1 in Tokyo.

Choe said Friday that he will visit Japan for a three-day stay on his way home from a tour of Thailand and Hungary March 23-30.

He plans to discuss with Uno matters of mutual concern, including the current situation on the Korean peninsula, the international situation and relations between the two nations and details of President No Tae-u's visit to Japan May 22-25.

He also said that he will pay a courtesy call on Japanese Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita on April 3 to discuss matters of mutual concern, including cooperation with Korea's "northern policy" to improve relations with socialist nations.

Former Minister Gives Reasons for Resignation
SK1703105489 Seoul YONHAP in English 0907 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Seoul, March 17 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-kap, the outgoing government administration minister, said Friday that resigning was his way of taking responsibility for the unopposed rampage of leftist forces.

Regarded as an ultra-rightist, Kim created a political controversy when he submitted his resignation Tuesday and went into hiding.

"Looking over our present society, the challenge posed by the ever-growing leftist forces against our free democratic system endangers the existence of our nation itself," he said.

"Concern over this situation has made me leave my government post. As for me, there is nothing else to be desired if by expressing my innermost heart I can provide an occasion for the nation to realize that continued leniency toward the rampant violent leftist forces could threaten even our existence as well as the process of democratization."

Kim resigned after issuing a statement that expressed his concern about the growth of leftism and said President No Tae-u's planned interim appraisal should be a chance to purge leftists from society.

A graduate of the Korea Military Academy's 17th class, usually viewed as a source of hard-liners, Kim touched off a furor last August with his assertion that leftism should be rooted out by "all means."

Kim was planning and management director of the Agency for National Security Planning and senior presidential secretary for civil petitions in the Chon Tu-hwan administration.

He was given the government administration portfolio in the formation of the No administration in February last year.

Daily Views Minister's Action

SK1703011489 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English
17 Mar 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Controversial Resignation"]

[Text] The resignation of Kim Yong-kap, the minister of Government Administration, stirred up a serious public controversy with his statement, issued as he tendered his resignation, that the very survival of the liberal democratic system in this country is jeopardized by radical leftists. The cabinet member contended in the statement that the government as well as the irresponsible opposition parties should be accountable for this situation.

On one level, his remarks were impressive enough to draw attention from the general public. Some people commented that his statement hit the nail right on the head under the present circumstances in which radical and leftist elements are rampant in various sectors. A silent majority of the people is deeply concerned about the current state of affairs, he reasoned.

The minister went so far as to assert that the forthcoming midterm appraisal of President No Tae-u government should serve as a momentum to save the nation from leftist control and stabilize politics. His courage to speak out his convictions is commendable.

But there are some problems in his conduct and the contents of his statement. Under the Government Organization Act, the government administration minister is supposed to take charge of the affairs relating to bill arrangement and general services for the State Council,

promulgation of laws, ordinances and treaties, personnel administration of public officials and so forth. So, it is not proper for the minister to make public statements irrelevant to his duties.

The minister has a free hand to express his views at the meetings of the State Council or at individual talks with the President and other Cabinet members and other persons. Policy matters, if once established, should be published in accordance with due process.

In this respect, Minister Kim can hardly escape criticism of his improper and irresponsible conduct. In particular, the content of his statement has a serious bearing on current affairs of great political importance. As the government administration minister, he is not in the position to release such a statement.

If he had any complaints about his peers and seniors—President No and others, this is a problem that he must work out internally with them. If his statement concerns policy suggestions, it should be tackled within the framework of the administration, and not released while unripe for public announcement.

For the present, the motivation for his bombshell statement is not clear. But indications are that he was dissatisfied with No's lukewarm steps against what he called widespread leftist forces. Minister Kim was a leading hardliner in the government, representing the hawkish view that the government should resolutely cope with leftist maneuvers once No wins the projected national referendum.

As a means of impressing the voters, Kim was known to be advocating a vote of confidence so as to rally the strong support from a vast majority of the people needed to launch an all-out anti-leftist crusade. Coincidentally, his action came shortly after a meeting between No and opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, in which they reportedly agreed that the referendum should be held in the form of a policy assessment, and not constitute a no-confidence vote.

Though Minister Kim's statement is controversial and his conduct is not so refined, it deserves grave attention in view of the current domestic situation. A spokesman for Chongwadae pointed out in a press briefing that President No understands the innermost feelings of the minister concerning the growing violent leftist elements, adding that his resignation would help the people recognize the seriousness of the present situation and that the midterm evaluation would be an occasion to safeguard free democracy.

The opposition camp, on the other hand, has its own reason to decry the minister's statement as the dangerous view of an ultra-rightist, suspecting Kim's action to be a

political trick by the ruling camp. However, Kim has the firm conviction that a silent majority of the people is deeply worried about the current situation, marked by widespread leftist forces.

Of the conflicting views about the state of national affairs, it is not easy to discern who is absolutely right. Yet, the parties and individuals need to consider how serious the impact of the results of their miscalculations will be. The rival forces now should come to a serene composure and ponder on the best way to serve the national interest as a whole.

Former Seoul Mayor To Replace Kim

*SK1603124989 Seoul YONHAP in English 1236 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Seoul, March 16 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u accepted Thursday the surprise resignation of Government Administration Minister Kim Yong-kap and appointed former Seoul Mayor Kim Yong-nae to succeed to the cabinet post.

Kim Yong-kap, a leading hard-liner in No's cabinet who has been widely believed to be a spokesman for the rightists, tendered a resignation Tuesday after announcing a statement that warned against the expansion of what he called violent leftist forces in the society.

The 52-year-old retired Army officer, who had served as senior presidential secretary for civil affairs under disgraced former President Chon Tu-hwan, had triggered off a political controversy with similar remarks he made in last August.

Kim has been out of contact since after he tendered his resignation.

The new Government Administration Minister Kim had served as vice government administration minister from 1980 to 1984 before he was named by former President Chon to serve as the second senior presidential secretary for political affairs.

After three years of service in the presidential secretariat, the 55-year-old was appointed as governor of Kyonggi Province in 1986, and was promoted in January last year to serve as Seoul mayor until December.

Burma

'More Than 2,000' Rally at Rangoon Campus
*BK1603131089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1248 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Excerpts] Rangoon, March 16 (AFP)—More than 2,000 Burmese students defied a ban on public gatherings and held a rally at a university here Thursday [16 March] in memory of classmates killed a year ago during student unrest which led to a nationwide pro-democracy movement.

The students gathered inside the Rangoon Arts and Science University (RASU) as troops and armoured cars sealed off entrances to the Inya Lake embankment—the scene of police brutality a year ago Thursday, eye-witnesses said.

Students shouted anti-government slogans and waved red flags with a yellow peacock, the traditional emblem of protest in Burma since before independence from Britain in 1948, they said.

But the demonstrators made no attempt to break the cordon of armed soldiers deployed along the banks of the Inya Lake which adjoins the RASU campus, and dispersed without incident after an hour-long rally, the eye-witnesses said.

Min Zeya, a student leader, told correspondents that March 16 has been designated "Red Bridge Day" in memory of students "who gave up their lives while seeking for truth" and that it "will become a symbol of students unity."

"Holding these memorials are a means to give the students a chance to rally in a single united front, to help them make contact and communicate with each other and to keep alive the movement for democracy," Mr. Min Zeya said.

Student leaders demanded during the rally that Burma's military government revoke a night-time curfew and ban on public gatherings, grant democratic freedoms and immediately release political prisoners.

They denounced forthcoming elections as "trumped up" and called for the setting up of an interim government. [passage omitted]

Eye-witnesses said earlier attempts by members of some political parties and students to place wreaths at the site of the March 16 incident failed after the military warned that no processions would be allowed outside the campus. [passage omitted]

Aung Gyi Claims He Retains NLD Chairmanship
*BK1703081189 Rangoon LOKTHA PYEITHU NEZIN
in Burmese 16 Mar 89 p 9*

["Notice" from the classified advertisement section, signed "per instruction" by U Zaw Myo Win and U Than Tun Aung, bachelors of arts, registered lawyers, legal counsel for U Aung Gyi]

[Text] I hereby make the following announcement to all members of the National League for Democracy throughout Burma per instruction of my client, U Aung Gyi, party membership number 000001, chairman of the one and only National League for Democracy recognized by the Multiparty Election Commission.

In a personal letter dated 25 November 1988 to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from U Aung Gyi, it was requested that eight aboveground communists who are dominating in the leading positions of the league be retired. When she received the letter, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented the matter to a meeting of the executive committee on 2 December 1988 and members of her faction in return demanded that U Aung Gyi be expelled from the League. Prior to this meeting, the regional commanders faction led by U Tin U in their letter dated 30 November 1988 stated they would stand by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's faction on this matter. Hence it is clear that the two factions colluded in advance culminating in the expulsion of the League's chairman, U Aung Gyi.

At the meeting on 3 December 1988, according to the premeditated plans of the two factions, the side of the former communists, former procommunists, and regional commanders won a majority vote. This matter can be appealed at the party congress.

However, the faction of U Tin U and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi lied in announcing that U Aung Gyi had resigned from the league on 3 December 1988. Furthermore, the Suu-Tin faction did not follow the provisions of the party constitution which they themselves drew up and distributed throughout the country in electing U Tin U as the chairman of the League after secretly conferring among the 28 members of their faction and in incorrectly informing the elections commission on 10 December 1988 that U Aung Gyi and 12 other members had resigned from the League.

Again on 13 December 1988 and 16 December 1988 they unilaterally informed the Elections Commission and lied for the third and fourth times respectively in informing that U Aung Gyi and 12 members had been expelled from the League and that the expulsion of U Aung Gyi was a matter decided once and for all by both parties. They then requested that their new executive committee be accepted by the commission.

Again on 9 February 1989 they requested that the Elections Commission accept the following central executive committee:

A. U Tin U	Chairman
B. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	General Secretary
C. U Win Tin	Secretary
D. U Chit Khaing	Secretary
E. U Kyi Maung	Researcher
F. U Aung Shwe	Organizer
G. U Lwin	Treasurer
H. U Aung Lwin	Information officer
I. Daw Myint Myint Khin	Mass and Class Division

However, the Elections Commission said the party concerned should settle the matter as it concerns internal party affairs and that it only put on record their actions. As the above-mentioned organization has not been announced as recognized, the said organization is not legal. It is hereby informed to all members of the National League for Democracy.

Parties Urged To Demand Interim Government
BK1403023689 Delhi International Service in Burmese
1115 GMT 12 Mar 89

["Excerpts of 17 February letter to political parties from the All Burma Federation of Students Unions, Rangoon"]

[Text] Since the coup by the military on 18 September 1988, some 188 political parties have been formed in Burma. We, the All Burma Federation of Students Unions [ABFSU], are of the understanding that political parties are formed to demand and fight for democracy by means of general elections and within the framework of the law. We are also convinced that the political parties and the ABFSU are allies in the democratic revolution of Burma fighting through different means for the same objectives.

To achieve these same objectives, we believe that we will mutually cooperate with, and extend help to each other in the struggle. Political parties in this regard means all parties, except for the NUP [National Unity Party] and its allied offshoot parties.

Today, the military authorities are issuing all sorts of laws to obstruct and suppress the rights of political parties to freely organize, deliver speeches, and publish. Moreover, they are also ignoring the demands made by political parties. It is our belief that a lack of solidarity among political parties has allowed the military to act nonchalantly. If the political parties are united and unanimous in making the same demands, we believe that the military will not be able to ignore them.

Hence, we at the ABFSU would like to appeal to the political parties to make common demands. Should this be agreeable, we, the ABFSU, would like to present our views regarding an interim government.

The behavior of the military authorities today is contrary to that of an interim government making it impossible to hold clean, free, and fair elections under such a situation. Elections organized by the military will be biased and unfair and aimed solely at helping the NUP win. An interim government is a must if elections are to be clean, fair, and free. It is our belief that we should be repeating this demand time and again in the same way that we demanded it during the days of our struggle. We should not lessen our demand for an interim government for any reason. Hence, we, the ABFSU, wish to humbly appeal to the political parties to make a unified demand for an interim government.

There should not be any question about who should be in the interim government. With the exception of the military authorities, anybody can be in the interim government. Our main aspiration is for the military authorities to give up power as soon as possible.

When making this demand, we should also consider how we shall react or what action we shall take if our demand is not met. We cannot simply forget about the demand if it is not met. We wish the political parties to consider a common course of action that all of them can take in unity. We, the ABFSU, promise to join hands and to take that same course whatever it may be.

Union People's Future, Democracy Party Programs

BK1103103589 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese
1330 GMT 10 Mar 89

["Press Release No 85/89 of the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections, dated 10 March 1989—the 4th day of the waxing moon of Tabauing, 1350 Burmese era"]

[Text] 1. The following are the extracts of the objectives and future programs of the Union People's Future and Democracy Party, which has registered with the Commission for Holding Democratic Multiparty General Elections in accordance with the Political Parties Registration Law, and which has its headquarters at No 244, Pinya Street, No 5 Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Rangoon Division.

2. Aims:

- To promote patriotism and democratic spirit among the people of the Union of Burma.
- To strive for acceleration of the task of national construction through patriotism.
- To protect and defend the country's sovereignty.
- To cooperate with all friendly counties in economic reconstruction.
- To cooperate with any organization which has goodwill in reconstruction tasks for the country's education, economy, and social services.

3. Programs:

- A. To promote patriotism and a democratic spirit among the people of the Union of Burma.
- B. To preserve traditional customs and cultures.
- C. To ensure basic human rights and such basic democratic principles as freedom of speech, freedom of organization, freedom of worship, freedom of writing, freedom of adjudication, and freedom of election.
- D. To ensure that the people enjoy benefits equitably as permitted under law.
- E. To ensure that the people work collectively in repulsing any threat to the country's independence.
- F. To find ways to minimize unemployment as much as possible.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Government To Ban 'Western' TV Commercials

BK1703134589 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Excerpt] All television commercials depicting Western life-style and employing non-Asian actors will be banned effective 1 July. Information Minister Datuk Mohamed Rahmat said the government took a serious view on the airing of such commercials, which were considered by many as efforts to change the Malaysian identity. Such commercials do not truly reflect the country's multiracial society.

Rahmat was speaking to newsmen after opening an orientation course for Information Ministry officials at Camp Kijang, near Kota Bharu, Kelantan. [passage omitted]

Government To Invite Britain to CHOGM

BK1603130589 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1231 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 16 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will invite Britain to attend the Commonwealth heads of governments meeting (CHOGM) in October even though that country is harbouring Salman Rushdie, the writer of the controversial novel, "The Satanic Verses", Deputy Foreign Minister Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan said Thursday [16 March].

Malaysia had its own views on the book and already took action to ban it, he said in the Dewan Rakyat (lower house of Parliament).

He said Malaysia could not stop Britain from attending the meeting solely because it did not get rid of Rushdie as requested by Iran.

He added it would be dangerous if the views of an individual or a country were adopted as views of Muslims as a whole.

However, Malaysia respected Iran's stand on the matter, Dr Abdullah Fadzil said.

Magazines Banned for Excerpts

BK1703125589 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
1110 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 17 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Malaysian Government has banned two recent issues of news magazines for reproducing excerpts from Salman Rushdie's book "The Satanic Verses".

Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Ayub said Friday [17 March], the March 9 issue of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW and the March 13 issue of NEWSWEEK magazine were found to contain excerpts and comments from the book, which is banned in Malaysia.

"We have to act as the contents of the two magazines would not have a good [word indistinct] on Muslims," he told reporters.

Brunei Ruler Ends Official Visit to Sarawak

BK1203131889 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television
Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 12 Mar 89

[Text] The sultan of Brunei and his wife, Pengiran Isteri, left for home after a 4-day official visit to Sarawak via Miri Airport. The royal couple were sent off by Datuk Patinggi Haji Ahmad Zaidi Adruce, his wife and Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud and his wife.

The Brunei ruler also inspected a guard of honor consisting of 105 officers mounted by the Second Rangers. This is the ruler's maiden visit to Sarawak since 1963.

Yesterday, the royal visitor visited the urea ammonia fertilizer plant, the ASEAN Bintulu Fertilizer [ABF] in the Kidorong industrial estate. The ABF executive management official, Mr Muru Mohamed, gave a briefing concerning the plant's operation. The 800-million-ringggit ABF fertilizer project is the biggest fertilizer plant in Southeast Asia. Malaysia, represented by Petronas [National Petroleum CorporationS], holds a 60-percent equity, while Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand hold 13 percent each and Singapore 1 percent.

The ABF commenced its production in 1985. The construction of this project enables Malaysia to save about 48 million ringgit annually in foreign exchange.

Singapore

Minister Comments on New 'Economic Diplomacy'

BK1703112889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1103 GMT
17 Mar 89

[By Michele Cooper]

[Text] Singapore, March 17 (AFP)—Singapore announced Friday it is charting a new course of "economic diplomacy" to meet the challenges of years to come.

Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng, in his first major foreign policy address in Parliament, forecast expanded economic ties with China and the Soviet Union, as well as with several East European nations and Indochina.

Staunchly anti-communist Singapore hopes to establish diplomatic relations with Beijing "within a year after the normalisation of Sino-Indonesian relations," Mr. Wong said.

Singapore was meanwhile reassessing its approach to the Soviet Union, with which he forecast more trade contacts and joint ventures. He said he planned to visit Moscow this year.

"We are also exploring the prospects in several East European countries," he added.

Diplomatic relations with the nations of Indochina would have to await a settlement in Cambodia but this, he said, was "only a matter of time."

"Clear-cut international divisions based on ideology are being blurred and alliance systems are loosening as a more complex pattern of crisscrossing interests and relationships evolves," Mr. Wong said.

"To take advantage of the opportunities and face up to the challenges, Singapore will need to emphasize its economic diplomacy," with better coordination between the Foreign Ministry and bodies such as the Economic Development Board, the Trade Development Board and the Tourist Promotion Board.

"This can help the government to be more effective in alerting our private sector businessmen to new trade and investment opportunities, keeping our markets open and attracting foreign investments to Singapore," Mr. Wong said.

Mr. Wong's speech, delivered during debate on the budget for Fiscal 1989, touched on several key issues:

—Relations With the United States

"A U.S. presence will continue to be necessary to allow the region to develop economically," Mr. Wong said. He urged Washington to continue to make its presence felt diplomatically, economically and militarily.

He called on regional countries to consider whether they wanted the United States to maintain its presence in the region. If so, the countries must also decide "how and what more they can do to facilitate that presence."

Answering a question on whether "the debate on the so-called human rights issue" might mar U.S.-Singapore relations, Mr. Wong said such differences would continue to crop up from time to time.

"We will never see eye to eye with the U.S. on such matters," he said. But if the United States and other nations accepted Singapore's position that it would continue to do what it deemed best, then "relations will be healthy," he said.

—Economic Relations With China

Mr. Wong announced that Singapore-China trade in 1988 amounted to 5.75 billion Singapore dollars (2.98 billion U.S.), a 27 percent increase over 1987. Re-exports to China were up by 108 percent in the same period.

Mr. Wong saw "great scope for the further expansion of economic ties."

—Trade With Indochina

Noting there was no international trade embargo against Vietnam, he said: "Singapore's policy on economic contacts is to allow normal commercial transactions to take place while discouraging aid, training, infrastructural development and trade in strategic goods."

"Trade with Indochina is an insignificant proportion of our total world trade. It is less than one percent."

—Relations With the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

"Relations with Malaysia, Indonesia and the other ASEAN countries will continue to remain the core of our foreign policy," Mr. Wong said.

Cambodia had been the central political issue binding ASEAN members, but once the problem was resolved ASEAN would have to "find new rallying points or risk drifting apart, to the detriment of regional cooperation and bilateral relationships."

He indicated Singapore would not support an early entry of Vietnam into ASEAN—grouping Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—although a just Cambodian settlement would ease the way.

British Protest Over Counsel Ban Regretted *BK1603134989 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES* *(in English 16 Mar 89 p 1)*

[Text] The Foreign Affairs Ministry expressed regret yesterday at the British Government's protest against the Singapore Government's decision to bar Queen's Counsel [QC] Anthony Lester from practising here.

It said there was no basis for the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office to have issued a statement regretting the Singapore decision.

The ministry said that the Singapore Government had unilaterally allowed British QCs entry into Singapore to appear in Singapore courts.

The arrangement was not the result of any Government-to-Government understanding or agreement and therefore could be withdrawn unilaterally and without any reason, although the Government had chosen to give its reasons in this case, it said.

It was thus a matter solely for the Singapore Government to decide and one between the Government and a lawyer who had behaved improperly and interfered in Singapore's domestic politics, the ministry said.

Announcing its decision on Mr Lester last Friday [10 March], the Government said that he had interfered in Singapore's domestic politics when, acting as a lawyer for Internal Security Act detainee Teo Soh Lung, he had championed her case outside the court and lobbied the British Foreign Office.

The Foreign Office protested on Monday [13 March] and said, among other things, that Mr Lester enjoyed "the highest professional and public standing" in courts throughout the Commonwealth, Europe and elsewhere.

A spokesman also said that Mr Lester had not pressed the Foreign Office to make representations to the Singapore Government on his behalf.

The Foreign Ministry said yesterday that the QC's standing and high connections did not entitle him to violate a well established code of conduct for lawyers.

As for that statement he had not pressed for representations to be made on his behalf, the ministry said this was clearly contradicted by his frequent use of the British Foreign Secretary's name and by Foreign Office officials who had stated that they were speaking under ministerial instructions.

Noting that Singapore and Britain enjoyed close and friendly relations, it added: "Singapore does not want the issue of Mr Anthony Lester QC to affect the bilateral relations between the two governments and sees no reason why it should."

The British protest was also of discussion in Parliament yesterday.

Cambodia

Soviet Peace Activists Arrive for Visit

BK1703124289 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1110 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK March 17—A delegation of the Soviet Peace Committee led by V.S. Didenko, member of the committee and vice minister of communications of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic has arrived here for a friendly visit to Kampuchea.

The delegation was warmly welcomed at Pochentong Airport by Prach Sun, vice president of the Kampuchean Peace Committee and other senior officials.

Government Forces Seize Hill Near Thai Border

BK1703132389 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Excerpts] Bangkok, March 17 (AFP)—Five Khmer Rouge guerrillas were killed and seven wounded as Vietnamese and Phnom Penh government troops seized a strategic hill near the Thai-Cambodian border Friday [17 March], Thai military officers said.

The officers in the border town of Aranyaprathet said Vietnamese and Phnom Penh troops seized Hill 48, some two kilometres (1.2 miles) south of Ampil, a former resistance stronghold in Cambodia's northern Oddar Meanchey Province.

Ampil fell to Vietnamese forces in 1985. It was retaken by non-communist Cambodian resistance guerrillas last week, but was seized again by Phnom Penh troops on March 12.

The Khmer Rouge, lacking long range artillery and rockets, had been forced to retreat to the Thai-Cambodian border by Vietnamese "saturation shelling" of their forward positions, the Thai Army officers said.

The Vietnamese used a number of "Stalin organs," truck-mounted multiple rocket-launchers in Friday's attack, they said, adding that Soviet-built T-54 tanks also took part in the assault.

More than 100 stray shells landed on Thai soil, triggering an emergency evacuation of three Thai border villages, the officers said.

Officials in Ta Phraya border district, opposite the battle zone, said more than 2,000 Thai villagers in Ban Sangae, Ban Nong Chan and Ban Khok Thahan villages have been moved to a makeshift camp some eight kilometres (4.9 miles) inside Thailand. [passage omitted]

Because of the renewed fighting in the area, up to 6,000 Cambodians have been moved from the Site 2 refugee camp set up close to the border opposite Ampil to Site 3, another camp further away from the border. [passage omitted]

Reporters Interview CGDK Resistance Leaders

BK1703010089 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Report on interview with Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK) leaders Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan by unidentified reporters; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] After releasing the joint statement of the three leaders of the Cambodian resistance forces, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and Their Excellencies Son Sann and Khieu Samphan answered a number of questions put forth by reporters.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk disclosed that in June or July of this year the four Cambodian parties would hold another meeting in Paris to examine a number of issues with the aim of formulating a peaceful solution to the Cambodian problem. However, the Cambodian problem is not only a Cambodian internal affair but also an international issue stemming from Vietnam's aggression. That being the case, the Vietnamese side must also participate in this round of talks or else the samdech will not attend the meeting.

Son Sann and Khieu Samphan reaffirmed the substance of the tripartite Cambodian resistance forces' unity and struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors.

Khieu Samphan added: Our struggle now and in the future is no more a question of ideology but rather a question of the survival of the Cambodian nation. Therefore, we should have a strategic plan to achieve this objective. We support the five-point peace plan of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian nation and Cambodian struggle and president of Democratic Kampuchea.

We are happy to reduce our armed forces to 10,000 troops within the framework of a future Cambodian quadripartite army and of a solution to the Cambodian problem in line with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk's five-point plan. We request a transitional and strict international control and supervision be carried out by an international control mechanism of the United Nations, and after the Vietnamese withdrawal we request the presence of an international peacekeeping force in Cambodia. We are sincere in wanting the survival of the Cambodian nation and the end of Vietnamese aggression against Cambodia as well as a mutual trust among all of us now and in the future.

Son Sann Interviewed Before China Visit
BK1703093589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Interview with Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) and prime minister of the Cambodian coalition government, granted to station correspondent on 9 March prior to his departure for visit to the PRC—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] I am a correspondent of the Voice of the Khmer. My deep salutations to your excellency the president of the KPNLF. A few days ago, a conference was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on the problem of Indochinese refugees in which the problem of Cambodian refugees was also discussed. What is your opinion regarding this?

[Son Sann] The international conference held a few days ago in Kuala Lumpur reported that there are now about 16,000 Cambodian refugees who are waiting for permission to go to a third country. I hope these 16,000 compatriots will pass the test. I hope the test will not be

too strict and the 16,000 Cambodian compatriots will be quickly allowed to go to the third country of their choice. In addition to these 16,000 compatriots waiting for permission to go to a third country, there are approximately 300,000 Cambodian compatriots, also refugees, along the Thai border who have no right to go to a third country. They are not regarded as refugees. They are regarded as illegal immigrants who will one day return to Cambodia.

In this connection, I would like to salute His Excellency Sitthi Sawetsila, the Thai foreign minister, who has announced that these compatriots who are regarded as illegal immigrants must not be forced to return to Cambodia, because war is still going on in Cambodia [words indistinct]. In my opinion, all refugees have fled from Cambodia because of the Vietnamese aggression, because of all kinds of (?oppression). It would be very inhumane to force them to return to Cambodia at this time, when all the Vietnamese aggressors have not yet left Cambodia and when we do not yet have measures to prevent the Khmer Rouge from seizing power in Phnom Penh. Moreover, if the refugees are sent back at this time, they will certainly face famine and all kinds of oppression. When the causes that forced these compatriots—who are called illegal immigrants—to flee to Thailand are quelled, then they will be willing to return to Cambodia. Before that time, all of us are duty-bound to make thorough preparations for these 300,000 compatriots to return to live happily in Cambodia. We should give them thorough education, particularly vocational education, and [passage indistinct].

I will request meetings with officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Border Relief Operation as well as leaders of the international organizations [passage indistinct] the 300,000 compatriots who will one day return home. I will make some requests to the officials in charge of these organizations.

[Correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Son Sann] [Passage indistinct] Hanoi has announced that its troops will be withdrawn in September 1989 if a political solution is reached, that is, a compromise is reached among the four Cambodian parties—the three parties of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] and the Phnom Penh party. [passage indistinct] We, as Cambodians, have the duty to show the world as I requested you to do last year. [Words indistinct] at (?first Jakarta informal meeting) of the four Cambodian parties in Bogor, I called on the four Cambodian compatriots to show the world that we, the Cambodians, can [words indistinct] compromise and make every effort toward reaching an agreement, thus bringing peace to our Cambodia by ourselves. If we do not make greater efforts and if there is no sacrifice, there will be no mutual understanding among the Cambodians nor agreement to bring about genuine and long-lasting peace. [Passage indistinct] we will not see peace in

Cambodia. I have heard some Cambodian compatriots say they were willing to sacrifice their lives for the liberation of our Cambodia and for peace in Cambodia. If we can sacrifice our lives for [words indistinct], at least we should try to make the other parties understand each other, our stance, and the aspirations of the three other parties.

There are now some common views (?among) the four parties. For example, the world public has welcomed Samdech Norodom Sihanouk as the leader of Cambodia [words indistinct]. Samdech Norodom Sihanouk has introduced a five-point plan to us. I would like to call on all Cambodian compatriots, the four parties, to accept this five-point plan as a basis in our talks and discussions. Moreover, we have agreed that there should be an international control mechanism with appropriately sufficient forces [words indistinct] organized by the United Nations to supervise the [words indistinct] in Cambodia, the total withdrawal of the Vietnamese troops from Cambodia; the disarming of the armies of the four Cambodian parties, leaving only a total of 40,000 armed men from all sides; the holding of free general elections; and preventing the genocidal regime from returning to power in Cambodia.

In my opinion, only the UN secretary general is capable of arranging an international control organization acceptable to all of us. This is because the UN secretary general is experienced and competent both in military and civil matters and possess sufficient material means to carry out the task. [Words indistinct] a provisional quadripartite coalition government of national reconciliation is needed to provide sufficient guarantee for the four parties to organize a free and general election to enable all Cambodian compatriots to enjoy the right to self-determination.

In this connection, I would like to call on all Cambodian patriots, particularly the leaders of the four Cambodian parties, to recall what His Excellency Suharto, president of the Republic of Indonesia, said when he received all of us—leaders of the four parties—in Jakarta on Monday, 20 February, this year. President Suharto told us, the four Cambodian parties, the following: At present, each of you has a car. You should leave your four old cars in Jakarta and together board a new car and drive it toward the common destination.

I would like to recall this exhortation by President Suharto and to call on all Cambodian compatriots in the four parties to steer this new car—a car called the quadripartite national reconciliation—toward the free and general elections. If we fail to do so, we will certainly be held fully responsible before [words indistinct] and be judged by our Cambodian compatriots.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. Now, do you have anything to say to the Buddhist monks and fraternal combatants and Cambodian people [words indistinct]?

[Son Sann] My respects to all venerable monks; greetings to all beloved compatriots: We, the three CGDK parties, will soon leave for China to have an audience with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in order to discuss ways to quickly solve the Cambodian problem. I hope that Vietnam will withdraw its troops, but it is still not sincere in this matter. There are many strings attached. It has requested that compromise should first be reached among the Cambodians and aid to the three CGDK parties, particularly the Khmer Rouge, be ceased.

However, we will have an audience with Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and hold discussions with him on the solution to the Cambodian problem and ways to make all Vietnamese aggressors and their hundreds of thousands of refugees leave Cambodia, and to bring compromise and reconciliation among the four Cambodian parties so as to jointly organize a general election, thus enabling all Cambodian compatriots inside and outside the country to enjoy the right to decide their own destiny. That is, whichever kind of a system, right, freedom, or religious belief they want, they should so decide through this election.

[Correspondent] On behalf of the Cambodian compatriots and the Voice of the Khmer, I would like to thank His Excellency Son Sann, president of the KPNLF and prime minister of the Cambodian Coalition Government, for this address to the Cambodian compatriots.

Son Sann Speaks on Behalf of Refugee Camp
BK1503065489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer
in Cambodian 0430 GMT 15 Mar 89

["Statement by His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and prime minister of the Cambodian Coalition Government"; date not given—recorded]

[Text] A few days ago, there was fighting inside Cambodia near the Cambodian refugee camp named Site 2. Cambodian compatriots at this camp were worried that the camp might be attacked or shelled.

I would like to specifically state that Site 2 is an open camp and there are only civilians in the camp, over 160,000, who have fled Cambodia because of Vietnam's aggression, the Khmer Rouge, the war, shortage of food, and oppression. Those living in Site 2 are called displaced persons and have no refugee rights and are not entitled to settle in third countries. The majority of the 160,000 Cambodian compatriots are elderly people, women, and children. They are waiting to return to Cambodia once peace and national reconciliation are restored.

Currently, everyone knows and everyone can confirm that this camp is not a military base. It is a camp on Thai soil near the Cambodian border. The 160,000 compatriots are living under a civilian Cambodian administration with the assistance from organizations such as UNBRO

[UN Border Relief Organization], the International Red Cross Committee [ICRC], and a number of other international humanitarian organizations. The people currently living in Site Two are under the administration of a Thai group called Displaced Persons Protection Unit [DPPU]. These organizations that have been providing assistance and security to our compatriots at Site 2 can confirm that Site Two is a purely civilian camp. Anyone openly attacking or shelling this camp would be guilty of a criminal offense against humanity.

I would like to solemnly appeal to the Thai authorities, to UN Secretary General His Excellency Javier Perez de Cuellar, to UNBRO, the ICRC, other international humanitarian organizations, and to the DPPU to look after the 160,000 Cambodian compatriots at Site 2. I also appeal to all these organizations and His Excellency Perez de Cuellar to request that the Vietnamese authorities or government do not attack or shell this civilian camp.

I would also like to make a special appeal to the Phnom Penh troops, those compatriots who are also Cambodians, not to do anything to add to the suffering of our compatriot refugees at Site 2.

Laos

Leaders Honor Memory of Meun Somvichit
BK1603151389 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] This morning at the club of the Office of the Council of Ministers, Comrade General Secretary and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Kaysone Phomvihana and comrade members and alternate members of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee, the vice chairmen of the Supreme People's Council, and the vice chairmen of the Council of Ministers laid wreaths to mourn the death of Meun Somvichit; former member of the second and third party Central Committees; former member of the Supreme Command of the Lao People's Liberation Army [LPLA] in the liberated zone; former chief of the LPLA General Logistics Department; former chairman of the Administrative Committee of Vientiane Province; and former chairman of the National Committee for Social Welfare and War Veterans, who passed away on 14 March.

After the party and state leaders laid their wreaths, representatives of ministries and mass organizations under the center and representatives of various services attached to the Vientiane Municipality also laid their wreaths to mourn the death of Comrade Meun Somvichit.

Phoumi Vongvichit Receives PRK, SRV Delegations
BK1603141489 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
1200 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] This morning at the Presidential Office, Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], received a courtesy call from

the PRK [People's Republic of Kampuchea] education delegation led by PRK Education Minister Pen Navut and the SRV education delegation led by Tran Hong Quan, SRV minister of higher and vocational education, which are here to attend the second conference of education ministers of the three Indochinese countries.

During the meeting, Phoumi Vongvichit hailed the delegations from the two countries for contributing to the success of the second conference of the education ministers of the three Indochinese countries, thereby contributing to improvement of education work in the three countries—Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia. At the same time, Phoumi Vongvichit also informed the guests of the new changes currently occurring in the LPDR, thus helping them to understand and have confidence in the solidarity and special cooperation among the three countries, which will certainly enable the people in each nation to score victories in building their respective countries. The guests informed Phoumi Vongvichit of the outcome of the exchanges of views sincerely conducted during the conference, in which the three countries reached unanimity on two major issues—the reality of the past and the orientation of future cooperation.

Education Ministers Meeting Ends

BK1603143589

[Editorial Report] Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao at 1200 GMT on 16 March carries a 4-minute report on the closing of the second conference of the education ministers of the three Indochinese countries in Vientiane.

The report says: "After a 4-day session, this afternoon the second conference of the education ministers of Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam was closed with brilliant success in Vientiane under the chairmanship of Saman Vi-gnaket, minister of education, culture, and sport affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]."

The PRK and SRV education delegations were led by Pen Navut and Tran Hong Quan, respectively PRK minister of education and SRV minister of higher and vocational education.

In his recorded closing speech, Saman Vi-gnaket noted: "At the conference, with a new concept of daring to examine and to speak the truth, we assessed together the achievements and good and weak points of education work in each country in the past 2 years." He pointed out that similar conferences will be convened again in the future at appropriate times. Noting the cooperation among the three countries in carrying out education work, he said: "We have signed mutual agreements on the equivalency of education certificates and levels."

He concluded: "We are convinced that this conference will contribute to effectively strengthening the solidarity and cooperation among the three countries as well as to raising the educational standard in each country."

Provincial Cooperation Accord With SRV
*BK1503115589 Vientiane KPL in English 0914 GMT
15 Mar 89*

[Text] Vientiane, March 15 (OANA-KPL)—An agreement on economic and cultural cooperation for the period 1989-90 was signed recently between the twined province of the Lao northern Houa Phan and Thanh Hoa of the SR [Socialist Republic] of Vietnam.

The agreement stipulates that on the basis of the new political concept and effective mechanism, the two sides agree to tap the economic potentials positive for the promotion of effective cooperation. The two sides also agree to expand the marketing relations and goods circulation between the two shops in the township of Sam Neua and Thanh Hoa was also included in the agreement. [sentence as received] The promotion and expansion of joint investment in various forms and sectors have also been indicated.

Party Delegation Returns From Vietnam
*BK1403024289 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 13 Mar 89*

[Text] The delegation of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, led by Comrade Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun, member of the party Central Committee and first deputy chief of the Foreign Relations Committee of the party Central Committee, returned to Vientiane on the evening of 11 March after ending a 5-day visit to the SRV to exchange experience on foreign relations work with the Vietnamese side in accordance with the 1988-89 cooperation plan between the two parties and the two foreign relations commissions of the party Central Committees.

Trade Cooperation Accords Signed With Mongolia
*BK1103085989 Vientiane KPL in English 0904 GMT
11 Mar 89*

[Text] Vientiane, March 11 (KPL)—A memorandum on economic and trade cooperation between Laos and Mongolia was reached here yesterday evening.

The signing ceremony took place following the preparatory meeting of the Lao-Mongolian economic and trade cooperation commission for the seventh session of the commission.

The two sides, in the preparatory meeting, informed each other about the implementation of the plans for national economic development and the improvement and restructuring of economic management mechanism in their respective countries.

The Mongolian side continues to grant gratis assistance in relation to the 60-bed hospital in Phonsavan (Xieng Khouang) and the Khangsi sheep experiment station.

Mongolia also helps to train Lao personnel. Some practical measures have been worked out for the expansion of the cooperation for the period 1989-1990.

During the meeting, the sides also signed a protocol on goods exchange and clearing between the two governments for the 1990.

The main exports of Laos are coffee and wood products. Mongolia exports to Laos carpets, sheep leather, and wool. The two sides also agree to expand direct trade and to cooperate in exportation.

The signatories to the memorandum were Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong, first deputy minister of economy, planning and finance of the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], and Mr. Pourevun Badral, deputy minister of foreign economic relations and supply of Mongolia.

Since 1986, Laos and Mongolia have exchanged goods on a balanced basis.

Phoun Sipaseut Receives Swedish Delegation
*BK1603095589 Vientiane KPL in English 0907 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Vientiane, March 16 (KPL)—Phoun Sipaseut, vice-chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister for foreign affairs, received here on March 15 a delegation of Swedish economic cooperation led by Mrs. Lena Hjelm-Wallen, minister of development cooperation [title as received], Swedish Foreign Ministry.

International and regional issues of mutual interest were discussed aimed at effectively strengthening various forms of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Phoun Sipaseut, on behalf of the Lao Government, highly acclaimed the visit and thanked the government and people of Sweden for their assistance to the Lao PDR [People's Democratic Republic], describing it as a contribution to the building of material and technical foundation for economic development, hence, the improvement of the people's living standard.

Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallen welcomed the restructuring policy of the Lao PDR and reaffirmed that Sweden would continue rendering help and assistance to social economic development of the Lao people.

Delegation Calls on Kaysone Phomvihan
*BK1703032989 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao
0000 GMT 17 Mar 89*

[Text] Yesterday morning at the Government Guest House, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Council of Ministers, received the Swedish economic cooperation delegation led by Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallen, minister for development cooperation in the Foreign Ministry of Sweden.

The conversation was held in an atmosphere of intimacy during which the host and guest exchanged views on various issues on the international and regional situations. At the same time, they also consulted with each other on the strengthening and development of relations and cooperation in various fields at present and in the future. The chairman of the Council of Ministers thanked the Swedish people and government for rendering material and moral support and assistance to the Lao people all these years. He said Swedish assistance to Laos is becoming more effective with every passing day and has actively contributed to our socioeconomic development, especially assistance in the fields of communications and transport, forestry, hydroelectricity, goods, and other equipment.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers explained to Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallen the new all-round changes currently going on in Laos. He pointed out the initial positive achievements of this evolution as well as the immediate and long-term tasks which must be fulfilled by the Lao people, especially in consolidating, upgrading, and developing the popular democratic system, building new economic structures, totally switching to new mechanisms, implementing an open-door policy in order to increase cooperation with foreign countries and to improve the living conditions of Lao people.

The chairman of the Council of Ministers expressed confidence that the visit to Laos by Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallen will actively contribute to more efficiently strengthening and developing Lao-Swedish cooperation, thereby contributing to further building the solidarity and friendship between the governments and peoples of the two countries.

On the same afternoon, Mrs Lena Hjelm-Wallen and her party departed for home after ending a 4-day visit to our country.

Philippines

Conference Held on Alternative Uses for Bases
HK1703051189 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
17 Mar 89 p 10

[By Jose G. Ebro]

[Text] The credibility of President Aquino's stand to keep her options open on the bases "is determined to a certain degree by the presence or absence of an alternative to the U.S. bases," a paper by the Foreign Service Institute [FSI] pointed out.

The FSI yesterday hosted the Conference on the Alternatives to the U.S. Facilities in the Philippines to discuss the following bases conversion proposals:

Gen. (Ret.) Jose Almonte's "people's Agro-Industrial Complex," conceived as a cooperative-run complex organized around an alcohol production plant and complemented by sugar cane, rice and corn production and cattle and poultry farms;

Conrad Tiu's "Olongapo as a Hong Kong Type Free Port," which proposes an autonomous government to administer a tax-free port;

Leonardo Mariano's "Integrated Bases Conversion Alternative," which envisions the setting up of export processing zones, pineapple and banana plantations, cattle farms and recreational complexes to be funded by the proceeds of the sale of Philippine military installations in Cubao and Makati;

New Town Alternative" as proposed by the National Economic and Development Authority [NEDA] which calls for the development of an alternative self-sufficient metropolis to Metro Manila with Clark, Angeles and Mabalacat as core areas; and,

The Center for Research and Communications' "Agro-Industrial Estate Alternative" which focuses on agro-based enterprises coupled with light manufacturing industries with production geared for local consumption.

A foreign affairs department official observed that none of the studies presented seemed to be at a particularly advanced stage allowing for an easier assessment of viability.

"The Mariano study which is quite detailed, seems to be based on the assumption that Government can sell the Cubao and Makati properties which Camps Crame, Aguinaldo and Bonifacio presently occupy. As there seem to be legal impediments to that, where would the money come from?" a conference participant asked.

Total project cost for the Mariano proposal has been put at "approximately P [pesos] 77 billion," the FSI paper notes.

It also points out that even "NEDA has yet to prepare an operational plan on the alternative uses of the bases" as a framework plan is still to be submitted to the President.

A foreign diplomat opined that "the critical questions are whether any of these alternatives can, in fact, take up the slack equivalent to the Americans' bases-related economic impact and how long it would take to implement such an alternative."

"Perhaps," the FSI paper suggests, "a consideration of all these studies—the pooling together of all their good points—would enhance the formulation of a realistic conversion of the bases."

Until this can be achieved, Government's "open-options" policy would continue to ring hollow.

Justice Secretary Says Taiwan Law Unnecessary
HK1403141389 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Justice Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez says that a law to formalize trade relations between Taiwan and the Philippines is unnecessary. According to him there are sufficient provisions and incentives to further expand trade ties. He did not mention anything about the warning issued by the People's Republic of China.

[Begin recording in English in progress] ...by means of executive direction. That [words indistinct] in the agitation for more and more protection comes from the potential investors. But it doesn't spell out what legal steps we have to take in order to accomplish this objective of inviting foreign investors from Taiwan. [end recording]

Columnist Argues Against Bill
HK1603043789 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 16 Mar 89 p 4

["Turn of Events" column by Francisco S. Tatad: "Can We Deal with Chiwan (China-Taiwan)?"]

[Text] Diplomacy is not a strong point of the Aquino administration. Its handling of its embassies abroad has brought us one embarrassment after another. But as if all its diplomatic bunglings were not enough, the House of Representatives has now offered to do more harm. With its proposed Taiwan Relations Act the House seeks to undo the warm and friendly relations we have built and maintained with the People's Republic of China over the last 14 years.

The proposed measure violates the terms of the 1975 Philippine-China communique which commits us to a one-China policy. That policy has not been easy to implement, from the very beginning. The Taiwanese lobby was (is) quite strong and not willing to give up the struggle. As information minister at the time, it became my duty to remind the media for quite a period of time that our official relations were with the People's Republic of China, not with Chiwan, and did not permit us any more to use "Republic of China" when talking of Taiwan. For doing that simple administrative chore, I was attacked and abused in numerous Taiwanese press editorials.

But relations with Beijing proved to be a blessing. Marcos succeeded in securing a solemn commitment from Chairman Mao Zedong that China would not extend any material aid to the New People's Army or the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP]. The Chinese Communist Party continued to extend fraternal greetings to the CPP on certain occasions, but the Chinese state as such kept its promise not to supply the CPP with money, training or arms. That commitment was recently renewed when Mrs. Aquino visited Beijing. And when the Philippines was threatened with oil embargo from

the Middle East because of the Mindanao conflict, China agreed to supply us part of our crude requirements. Finally, when the country's credit standing abroad began to slide, China extended some small loans at concessional terms.

Now, attracted by Taiwan's large foreign exchange reserves, part of which has found its way here, some congressmen have proposed the Philippine-Taiwan Beneficial Act of 1989, seeking more open and extensive trade relations with Taiwan and providing "greater security" to Taiwanese investments. Their reasoning is that if the U.S. could enact such an Act without causing a diplomatic break with Beijing, there should be no reason we should court so much danger or displeasure if we did the same. Moreover, they note that Beijing has encouraged a vigorous exchange to take place between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland.

All this has offended Beijing. What happens between Taiwan and the Chinese mainland, officials have pointed out, is China's internal affair. And what the Chinese allow the U.S. to do to them at this point does not allow any other country to presume on their good nature. Understandable then that the first secretary of the Chinese embassy in Manila, Mr. Liu Xinsheng, should warn that enactment of the measure "will certainly bring about adverse effects on Sino-Philippine relations."

Members of the Congress have denounced Liu's statement as "foreign interference" and asked that he be declared persona non-grata for making such statement. But before they make utter fools of themselves, it is necessary to remind them that the Chinese diplomat was merely calling attention to a solemn Philippine undertaking enshrined in the 1975 Beijing communique which the congressmen seem to have completely forgotten. This is not interference, and it is not at all comparable to what U.S. diplomats routinely do here.

Without any specific pro-Taiwanese law, Taiwanese money in search of profits has poured here. This is partly because Taiwan is awash with funds and the Philippines is one area where investment risks are offset by the presence of a large ethnic Chinese community on top of the most productive economic sectors. The fact that Taiwanese investments have topped all except U.S. investments shows there is no need for a Chiwan Relations Act to keep those investments coming. And those who insist on such an Act at the risk of offending Beijing are taking a dangerous and unnecessary gamble. And for them to seek the expulsion of a Chinese diplomat for reminding them of an agreement they seem to have forgotten is to court trouble far more serious and unnecessary than the passage of their pet measure.

Editorial Views Taiwan Trade

HK1503051189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 15 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Doing Business with Taiwan"]

[Text] If the government is really more concerned about attracting investments from Taiwan than in abiding by the 1975 joint communique establishing diplomatic ties between Manila and Beijing, it might as well break relations with China altogether. Clearly, statements and initiatives from both Malacanang and Congress indicate a common obsession with luring into the country even more money from Taiwan—even if it means insulting a neighboring country that has not only been a good friend but also a faithful adherent to the terms of our diplomatic relations.

In a speech last week before a group of Chinese-Filipino businessmen—which insists on referring to itself with the ungrammatical anachronism "Filipino-Chinese" and is widely regarded as the local bastion of the Kuomintang party that controls the government on Taiwan—President Aquino revealed that a Philippine government agency will soon establish an office in Taipei to coordinate investments coming from the Chinese island-province. This plan is consonant to the proposed Taiwan Beneficial Relations Act, filed by the House of Representatives Minority Floor Leader Rodolfo Albano (KBL [Kilusang Bagong Lipunan], Isabela). The fact that the Aquino administration is evidently brimming with enthusiasm to help enact a measure authored by the leading oppositionist in the "bigger chamber" of Congress is not only a rare display of bipartisanship—the only one of its kind in recent memory. It is moreover, the best gauge that the Albano Bill would be enacted ultimately.

The government should therefore not be surprised that the Chinese embassy has taken the unprecedented step of calling a press conference last Monday to express Beijing's dissatisfaction with the pro-Taiwan measure. The 1975 communique holds Manila to recognize only one China whose sole legitimate representative is the government in Beijing. However, the Chinese government has been realistic enough to recognize that many of the countries with which it has diplomatic relations need to maintain trade with the dynamic Taiwanese economy. Beijing has not stopped any country from conducting commerce with Taiwan—so long as such trade is conducted on a private not official, basis.

But the Philippine government appears to be determined to violate this principle by, as Mrs. Aquino herself has disclosed, giving the country's economic ties with Taiwan an official character. Why that is necessary has not been satisfactorily explained by either the President or Congressman Albano. True, Taiwan has lately become one of the biggest investors in the country—accounting for an estimated 23 percent of foreign investments. Certainly, there is an urgent need to attract foreign

investors in order to sustain the recovery and growth of the Philippines' ravaged economy. But other countries—including our own ASEAN partners—have managed to maintain vibrant commercial ties with Taiwan without violating the terms of their diplomatic relations with China. Two good examples of these are Thailand and Malaysia, which have each been able to attract an even bigger volume of Taiwanese investments than those coming into the Philippines, without resorting to the kind of double dealing and diplomatic charade that the Albano Bill and Malacanang evidently have in mind.

What the government has obviously failed to consider in its obsession to lure Taiwanese investments is the fact that Taiwan needs the Philippines as much as we need them. As has been pointed out in this corner previously, the Taiwanese have more capital in their hands than they know what to do with. They need places to invest in perhaps much more than Filipinos need foreign investors. Taiwanese businessmen are coming to the Philippines not out of the goodness of their heart or any sympathy for the democratic government headed by a President who may be a distant relative. They are coming in to deploy their surplus capital, with the hope of generating even more profit for themselves. As the saying goes: Business is business. Let's just keep it that way.

Soviet Ship Prevented From Entering Country

HK1703045589 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0400 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] The Coast Guard has stopped from entering the country a ship attempting to pick up a shipment of fish. The ("MV Nevetsky Lutz"), which had been hired by agents in Singapore to pick up the shipment, was allegedly detained because it was a Soviet ship. According to Elizalde Diaz, owner of Balete Industries, the ship remains anchored outside Philippine territorial waters. He said that some 1,000 fishermen would benefit from the sale of the fish even if the ship were only allowed into the country for a few days.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs Security Raul Manglapus confirmed knowledge of the incident and said his department is conferring with the country's intelligence agencies.

House Divided Over IMF Letter of Intent

HK1403065189 Manila MANILA BULLETIN
in English 14 Mar 89 pp 1, 10

[By Rod Villa Jr]

[Excerpt] The House of Representatives was split yesterday over a new government economic program which is said to have been made a condition for the release of new loans totalling \$1.3 billion by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Majority Floor Leader Francisco Sumulong (LDP [Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino—Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Rizal), supported by Assistant Majority Floor Leaders Oscar M. Orbos (LDP, Pangasinan), Raul Roco (LDP, Camarines Sur), and Victorico Chaves (LDP, Misamis Oriental), and Rep. Jose Cojuangco Jr. (LDP, Tarlac), pledged support for President Aquino's approval of the IMF terms on the availment of the new money.

But Speaker Pro Tempore Antonio V. Cuenco (LDP, Cebu City) led a sizeable group of congressmen in condemning the "indecent haste" with which he said President Aquino was being pushed into approving the terms necessary to obtain the new funds.

The Cuenco group found unfamiliar support in the opposition led by Minority Floor Leader Rodolfo Albano (KBL, [Lilusang Bagong Lipunan—New Society Movement], Isabela) who blasted the negotiations as marked with "treachery and deception," bound to put the people in deeper financial crisis.

But the congressmen were nearly unanimous in demanding the removal of Gov. [Governor] Jose Fernandez Jr. of the Central Bank and Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme whose "continuous bungling" as the government's chief negotiators, they claimed, has worked against the interest of the people.

Cuenco led congressmen in signing a resolution asking President Aquino to postpone the approval of the letter of intent for the new IMF loan.

He said the President must await the passage of a bill she has certified as urgent creating a joint Executive-Legislative Foreign Debt Council, which Congress vowed it would enact this week, before committing the government to the IMF terms.

"We assert the constitutional right of Congress to review and make recommendations on the content of the letter of intent, and we defend the right of the people to know its ramifications and consequences," said Cuenco.

"The people are deprived of this right to transparency and public accountability because the contents of the letter are worded in technical economic terms that must be translated into laymen's language," he said.

The House leadership expressed a common demand for the ouster of Fernandez and Jayme but Cuenco said that should this not be possible, the negotiating panel must be expanded to supplement the effort of the two negotiators.

"Many heads are certainly better than two," said Cuenco.

Speaker Ramon V. Mitra Jr. said Fernandez and Jayme should be made to explain before a bicameral special session the details of the new agreement, a product of more than three months of meetings between the Philippine panel and the IMF.

"Fernandez has been on the Philippine negotiating team as early as the Marcos regime and has shown no success," said Cuenco. [passage omitted]

Senate Notes 'Reservations'

HK1703014989 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The Senate reached a consensus to endorse, with deep reservations, the government's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund. Thirteen senators voted in favor, as opposed to seven votes cast against the intended foreign borrowing. The decision was made after a 3-hour, closed-door executive session with Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme and Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez. Governor Fernandez assured the senators that no new tax measures would be necessary to improve the country's paying capacity. Many senators wanted to introduce changes in the letter of intent but gave up hope when they realized the futility of amending (?it) when it had already been made final. Here is Senate President Jovito Salonga:

[Begin recording] Secretary Jayme and Governor Fernandez explained that the Letter of Intent is not an agreement, much less a treaty. It's merely a statement of intention of the Executive Department, and at any time we can go to the IMF and say: We do not (?prefer) to carry out, we are in no position to carry out this letter of intent.

There was a brief exchange of views. Every senator [words indistinct] was asked to give [words indistinct] reaction, and it was decided by the senators that the collected stand of the Senate—since this is merely a statement of intent on the part of the executive—to tell the president that we agree that the president may authorize her representatives to sign the Letter of Intent, but also to convey to the president that there are a good number of senators who have expressed reservations about the country's economic program. [end recording]

Officials Warn About Withdrawal

HK1503055589 Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY GLOBE in English 15 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer Philip M. Lustre Jr]

[Text] Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme and Central Bank gov. [governor] Jose Fernandez Jr. yesterday warned of adverse consequences if the Philippines withdraws its commitment to a draft economic program it has submitted to the International Monetary Fund.

Jayne and Fernandez told a joint public hearing of the Senate committee on economic affairs and finance that the nation is duty-bound to implement the program once it is signed. The Philippines has only until today to inform the IMF if it has any objections to the program.

Withdrawing commitment to the program would mean a stop in the release of IMF standby credits to be issued in six semi-annual tranches.

The negotiations for the restructuring of some \$1.2 billion in maturing obligations to multilateral and bilateral lenders under the Paris Club would suffer, Jayme said.

The country cannot forego its negotiations with the Paris Club or it would be declared in default, Jayme said, adding that the country is already in arrears with the Paris Club members. A number of disbursements have been held pending the outcome of the negotiations with the IMF.

During the same hearing, Jayme and Fernandez also said:

President Corazon Aquino has appointed them verbally and that there is no written presidential directive that alienated their functions as debt negotiators;

They would only sign the draft economic program and its accompanying letter of intent if the President tells them to do so;

Other government officials will be invited to participate in the negotiations with the IMF;

Donor countries will only participate in the proposed Philippine Assistance Program [PAP] if an IMF-sanctioned country program would be put in place;

The economic program will not inhibit the Philippines from pursuing debt reduction schemes and availing new options to ease the debt burden.

Jayne said the debt provisions with the Paris Club members contained a cross-default clause which means that a fault with one credit member would be considered a default with all the members.

He also warned that the PAP might suddenly come to a halt while foreign investors might refrain from investing here.

He also warned of a capital flight.

For his part, Fernandez recalled the serious capital flight that took place after the country failed to meet IMF-imposed performance criteria in 1983.

Fernandez also clarified that the economic program did not require the President's approval and that their (Fernandez and Jayme) signatures would be enough to commit the country to follow the agreement.

If the Philippines does not object, the IMF management will process the economic agreement for three weeks before submitting it to the IMF board for approval.

The IMF board, he said, normally takes four weeks to evaluate the program after which the Philippines and the IMF could sign a country program that would trigger the release of \$1.3 billion fresh credits.

In an earlier public hearing of the Senate committee on the PAP, Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod said the 6.5 percent annual growth target under the draft economic program is inconsistent with the annual inflation rate target of five to eight percent.

Monsod also confirmed an earlier GLOBE report that she has submitted to the President a confidential memorandum that details her opposition to the draft program. But she declined to discuss the memorandum.

Monsod also cautioned the senators against hastily pushing for an entirely new mechanism for handling development projects at the time the commitment under the PAP has not been firmed up.

Meanwhile, several senators expressed displeasure over the limited time the debt negotiators have given them to review the draft economic program.

Sen. [Senator] Heherson Alvarez said Mrs. Aquino has vetoed a bill creating a joint executive-legislative debt commission to preempt the participation of members of Congress in the negotiations and present them with a fait accompli. "This is the hidden agenda," he said.

Sen. Vicente Paterno warned debt negotiators that committing the country to new taxes would be a different story because imposition of new taxes is the sole prerogative of Congress.

Sen. Alberto Romulo decried the lack of consultation even on Cabinet level. He said Congress should have been consulted, especially commitment for full debt repayment until 1992.

But Jayme and Fernandez said they had consulted Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. and Budget Secretary Guillermo Carague a "few times." They consulted Monsod only once, they added.

GLOBE sources, however, said the debt negotiators did not consult Monsod and the NEDA [National Economic Development Authority] technical committee even on key targets such as inflation.

Monsod Warns About Conditions
HK1603044189 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 7

[By Oscar Quiambao]

[Text] Economic Planning Secretary Solita Monsod has warned President Aquino that the conditions imposed by the International Monetary Fund [IMF] on a \$1.3-billion loan package could set back economic growth and spark political unrest.

In a letter dated March 10 to the President, Monsod said that under the IMF terms, the government would have to increase fuel prices as well as raise power, water and port service rates.

This would mean higher transport fares and food prices which, according to Monsod, the Aquino administration would find difficult to explain to the people.

Monsod's warning came in the wake of bloody rioting in heavily indebted Venezuela due to austerity measures imposed by the IMF. At least 300 people were killed and 2,000 injured in the riots over high prices two weeks ago.

Monsod also said the government will likely fail to meet high IMF targets on tax collection. This, she said, means the government would have to raise taxes as well as cut expenditures on basic services as health and education.

Monsod said the IMF-imposed economic program "contains stiff and heavy conditionalities" which, she added, would slow down economic growth and worsen unemployment.

She urged Ms. Aquino to seek greater flexibility from the IMF through negotiations at the political level.

"If the program has to be accepted, the government should be aware of all its pitfalls and implications, both economic and political, so that the appropriate counter-measures can be planned for and executed," Monsod said in her four-page letter.

Monsod is the first known Cabinet secretary to express disagreement on the three-year economic program Ms. Aquino has pledged to carry out in exchange for the IMF loan package.

The program is spelled out in a so-called "letter of intent," the terms of which were worked out during the past five months by IMF officials with two Philippine debt negotiators, Central Bank Gov. Jose B. Fernandez and Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme. Monsod was excluded from the debt negotiating panel.

Ms. Aquino approved "in principle" the letter of intent last week but she told reporters yesterday that she has not yet signed it because the Senate and the House of Representatives asked to study the letter first.

Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno, however, said it was Ms. Aquino's "executive privilege" to approve the letter without the concurrence of Congress. Still, Jayme said the administration was awaiting Senate comment before the document is signed.

Jayme told reporters he and Fernandez had explained to the Senate that it was necessary to act on the letter of intent quickly.

Asked what he would do if the Senate rejected the letter or proposed amendments, Jayme said: "We will study the situation." But he said he hopes to "have a consensus soon."

Jayme and Fernandez, however, have submitted the letter of intent to the IMF management which, in turn, will present it to the IMF executive board for approval.

IMF approval would pave the way for a new round of negotiations for \$1.6-billion in fresh loans from commercial banks and rescheduling of more than \$1 billion in official debt.

Editorial Warns Aquino
HK1403060589 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 14 Mar 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Unsolicited Advice"]

[Text] Hold it, Mrs. President. Before setting that presidential pen to the IMF letter of intent [LOI] to secure \$1.3 billion in fresh loans, please, just please, consider the following unsolicited advice:—Read the fine print of the LOI which Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme and Central Bank Governor Jose B. Fernandez Jr. are in such a hurry for you to sign.

—Ask U.S. President George Bush what this new scheme of debt reduction that Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady is talking about. [sentence as published]

—Find out why Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez, and Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno appear to have pre-empted your options by announcing that Congress and business leaders have reached a consensus to endorse the draft accord so that you may go ahead and sign it on Wednesday.

Forewarned is forearmed, Mrs. President. The agreement must be studied carefully. Even economists in the NEDA [National Economic and Development Authority] who are familiar with the subject complain of the shortness of the time. What more the people's representative, the senators and congressmen, who are approaching the subject cold, heated up only by the desire to spare our people from more hardship? [sentence as published] How can they be expected to endorse such measures as progressively increasing taxes from 1990 to 1992; paying our debt installments through the nose so that the external debt ratio to the gross national product is cut

from 83.4 percent in 1987 and 72.2 percent in 1988 to only 52.1 percent by 1992; cutting government deficit spending from 3.1 percent in 1988 to 1.4 percent by 1992 while increasing public investments from 3.4 to 5.8 percent in the same period; and worst of all, cutting back and holding down annual growth to only 6.5 percent from 1989 to 1992 despite the evident economic upswing under your tenure? All these IMF conditionalities which Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez want you to tie the country to in exchange for a measly \$1.3 billion will mean unimaginable suffering for our people, who will have to work harder and pay more taxes. As if they're not already breaking their backs.

Mrs. President, you have always appealed to our international creditors for better repayment terms. From that stirring address in the U.S. Congress in September 1986 and onwards, you have in fact asked the framers of world economic and political policy to consider for a change the possibility of forgiving some of our debts, for we don't intend to repudiate them. Many other leaders of debtor nations have made similar pleas. Finally, your combined voices have been heard along with the screams of the wounded in Venezuela. Mr. Brady announced last Saturday a new policy to encourage international lenders to voluntarily reduce the \$1.3 trillion outstanding Third World debt by about \$400 billion. Under this plan, we may not need the \$1.3 billion after all. That is, if our creditors follow Brady's tack.

Mrs. President, we were informed by Central Bank sources that this very minute, the letter of intent is on its way to IMF headquarters in Washington. The document bears the signature of Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez, for under EO [Executive Order] 218, the President may authorize the finance secretary and Central Bank governor to sign in his/her behalf. There appears to be undue haste in sending the document to the IMF, which will meet in mid-May yet to consider it, as much as there was an attempt to foil any resistance to its contents by technical default. Messrs. Jayme and Fernandez insist the letter must be sent before Wednesday in order not to displease the Paris Club. Yet they gave the Senate, the House of Representatives and the Secretary of Economic Planning only a few hours to study the document before calling them to a so-called consultative meeting in Malacanang last Thursday.

Yet with the help of Mr. Benigno, they announced a consensus that, according to the senators, never took place.

Mrs. Aquino, don't say we didn't warn you.

Government To Hold Elections on Spratly Islands
OW1603220289 Taipei CNA in English 1458 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Taipei, March 16 (CNA)—The Philippine Government will hold the first election in the disputed Spratly Islands to assert its "claim" on the territory it is presently occupying, the Commission on Elections announced Thursday.

The poll body said inhabitants of the Philippine-held islets which form part of the internationally disputed group of islands will join the rest of the country in voting village officials on March 28, according to a Far East News Agency dispatch.

About 171 voters registered last March 21 making it possible to hold a political exercise in "Kalayaan Islands," a group of islets in Spratlys being claimed by the Philippines, the poll body said.

According to commission officials, voters are members of fishermen and soldiers families living in the seven remote islets in the China Sea at the southern tip of the Philippine Archipelago.

Manila has been involved in a border dispute with Malaysia over the group of islands and surrounding rich fishing grounds which several other countries including the Republic of China on Taiwan and Vietnam are claiming.

Masbate Congressman Killed by Unknown Assailants
HK1703031389 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0300 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] A congressman was shot and killed at 0700 this morning. The victim was Masbate Congressman Moises Espinosa. Reports say Espinosa had just arrived at Masbate Airport from Manila when he was shot. It is still not clear who killed him. His office at the Congress announced that Mr Espinosa had left at 0630 for Masbate and was scheduled to arrive there at 0700. He did not die immediately after being shot and was rushed back to Manila, where he died.

Congress To Probe Merger of Aquino Properties
HK1503052789 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English
15 Mar 89 p 10

[Text] Congress will investigate the reported merger of Hacienda Luisita and the Tarlac Development Corp. (TDC), both owned by the family of President Aquino. The merger was allegedly done to prevent the distribution of the farmlands to the hacienda's beneficiaries, in violation of the intent of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law [CARL].

Yesterday, at the joint hearing of the Senate and House committees on agrarian reform, the Congress for People's Agrarian Reform (CPAR) through one of its representatives, Trinidad Domingo, asked lawmakers to inquire on the merger. Expressing her doubts on this move, she asked, "Why was it (Luisita) made into a corporation? Was it because of a provision in the (CARP) law which allows a stock distribution option?"

It was reported last month that TDC and the 6,000-hectare hacienda were being merged "to streamline the operations of the two entities," making the hacienda a corporate entity.

Under the Republic Act No 6657 or the CARL, if the commercial landowners do not want to transfer ownership of their landholdings, they can instead allow qualified beneficiaries the right to purchase capital stock of the firm.

Ms. Domingo complained that under a stock-option scheme, corporate landowners "are tempted to under-value land assets and categorize land assets as non-land value assets." Specifically referring to Hacienda Luisita, she further said that there is rampant practice of misdeclaration of net sales or net profit.

Also under the law, pending final land transfer, individuals or entities owning or operating under lease or management contract, agricultural lands are mandated to execute a production-sharing plan with their farmworker's organization. The plan stipulates that 3 percent of the gross sales from the production of such lands are distributed to farmworkers on top of their regular compensation.

Other CPAR leaders, like its secretary-general Rafael Mariano, and officers of the other farmer groups, upheld Ms. Domingo's observation as they aired similar and related complaints on how "dismal" the CARL is being implemented.

But of all the complaints, Sen. Heherson Alvarez, chairman of the Senate committee, singled out the Luisita issue as "disturbing." He told CPAR that all its concerns must be brought to the attention of the necessary agencies. He expressed his support for all farmer organizations, especially the small ones, as he vowed to inquire on the Luisita case. "There must be a total transparency on this," he told reporters after the hearing.

Likewise, Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay, Mr. Alvarez' counterpart in the House, told mediamen that the Chamber, in coordination with the Senate, will investigate CPAR allegations. He observed that the Luisita "is a classic case of stock transfer sale" which, he noted, should not be favored over the actual land distribution to farmers.

"While opting for stock distribution is legal, we will look into the possibility that there is a devaluation of agricultural asset and improper reporting of profits (to evade CARL)," he noted.

The two House committees are also investigating the reasons behind the retrenchment of 1,000 workers of Tagum Development Corp., allegedly to reduce the number of, or eliminate, potential beneficiaries. The congressmen and senators will be visiting different regions of the country to check the implementation of CARL and the possible violations of corporations, including multinational firms.

Labor Groups Denounce Amended New Labor Code
HK1403073989 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER in English 14 Mar 89 p 6

[Boxed statement by affiliate members of the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council]

[Text] The New Labor Code as Amended by RA [Republic Act] 6715—More Repressive Than Marcos' Fascist Labor Code

We condemn the passage of the New Labor Code as amended by RA 6715 (Herrera Bill) as an affront to the labor movement.

Malacanang's New Labor Code is repugnant to the workers because even if it purports to repeal the old law, it retained the fascist Marcos Labor Code, with BP [Batas Pambansa—National Law] 130 and 227 that trample upon the right to strike and to unionize. We oppose the bill principally because of this and a hundred other reasons.

The defenders of this obnoxious law even muddled the issue by sowing intrigues and claiming that the labor movement is divided. The truth is that the Filipino workers are united under the LACC [Labor Advisory and Consultative Council] in solidly fighting against this bill.

The TUCP [Trade Union Congress of the Philippines] who supported the bill, as it has supported Marcos before, and the vigilante death squads now, has never really earned the distinction of being a genuine representative of labor. The TUCP's endorsement of the New Labor Code is as impertinent to the labor movement as the approbation of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines or of foreign multinational corporations who are expected to applaud the new law since it is pro-management and anti-labor.

We the Filipino workingmen, united under the LACC, shall continue to struggle against the New Labor Code as we have fought Marcos' tyrannical BP 130 and 227. By militance and firm unity, we shall assert the right to strike and unionize.

We, the affiliate members of the Labor Advisory and Consultative Council:

Atty. Benjamin Alar, (llaw) [expansion unknown]; Paterno Menzon (TUPAS) [Trade Unions of the Philippines and Allied Services]-FSM [expansion unknown]; Crispin Beltran (Natu) [expansion unknown]; Loui Natividad (KMU) [Kilusang Mayo Uno—1 May Movement]; Rey Capa (Katipunan Pambansang Katipunan ng Manggagawang [expansion unknown]; Vladimir Tupaz (TUPAS-WFTU [World Federation of Trade Unions] Pilipino)—National Union of Philippine Workers] Dumalo sa malaking demonstrasyon ng manggagawa patungong Senado at Malacanang Mamayang Hapon,

Marso 14, 1989. Magtitipan ng 2:00 p.m. sa Liwasang Bonifacio at magmamartsa patungong Senada at Malacanang [Attend the workers' demonstration at the Senate and Malacanang on the afternoon of 14 March 1989. Meeting at Liwasang Bonifacio at 1400 and march toward Senate and Malacanang].

Anticommunist Groups Form National Alliance
HK1603140789 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Anticommunist groups have formed an alliance. Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos was the guest speaker at the inaugural congress of the National Alliance for Democracy [NAD]. In his message he said this is a good example of launching a people's war against insurgency. The NAD is the counter force of the National Democratic Front and the New People's Army. The leaders of the new alliance plan to form their own labor unions which will counter the Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement] and other military labor organizations. The NAD claims that the present administration is heavily infiltrated by communists. Among the delegates to the congress are Christian fundamentalists. They plan to get foreign funding.

Military, Comelec Meet on Barangay Polls Issue
HK1403075789 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
14 Mar 89

[Text] The military has tagged 3,555 out of the over 40,900 barangays nationwide as political hotspots in the March 28 barangay elections. This was disclosed by Commission on Elections [Comelec] Commissioner Leopoldo Africa in a press briefing following a meeting yesterday among top officials of the Comelec and the defense-military establishment.

The meeting assessed the current peace and order situation in the country in connection with the forthcoming barangay polls. It was presided jointly by Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos and AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff Renato de Villa.

Africa said AFP Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa considered the 3,555 barangays as hotspots in the coming political exercise due to the presence of communist insurgents, intense political rivalry, and warlordism. However, Africa said the military did not recommend any postponement of barangay elections in these areas. Africa said the military opted to adopt a stand where postponement of barangay elections in areas considered very critical is at the discretion of the Comelec.

Meantime, Comelec Commissioner Leopoldo Africa said the poll body has the power to order the suspension of barangay elections in any area of the country if the situation warrants it. However, Africa said an understanding was reached between the Comelec and the defense-military establishment in cases of areas where

there are military operations against the communist New People's Army [NPA]. In such cases, Africa said, the military would inform immediately the commission that such operations are going on so that appropriate measures could be ordered or effected by the poll body. Specific areas tagged as very critical by the poll body are Regions 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 11.

Africa said the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] and other such groups would not disrupt the coming barangay elections. Just like the NPA, Africa noted, the MNLF and other ultrarightist groups would like to achieve a certain degree of peace so that their own people could vote for their hand-picked candidates.

Soldiers Deployed to Areas
HK1603105789 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company
DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] The Armed Forces has started to deploy soldiers to different areas nationwide as the barangay polls approach. Rodny Haleco has the details:

[Begin recording] The deployment of soldiers to various parts of the country was initiated after intelligence operatives confirmed reports that the communist New People's Army [NPA] insurgents are gearing to create trouble on 28 March, the slated date for the barangay polls. This move will also mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the NPA, which is on 29 March.

Air force C130 Hercules planes have been deployed, including constabulary special action forces and army scout rangers. The troops were sent to the cities of Dumaguete and Zamboanga to strengthen the military and police forces in these areas. Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief General Renato S. de Villa confirmed yesterday the CPP [Communist Party of the Philippines]-NPA plan to launch a summer offensive to win back their losses of last year. According to De Villa, the insurgents are just waiting for the time to retaliate. They may attack anywhere, anytime, whenever they have the opportunity. He said the insurgents want to fight back so that they will not experience further demoralization, and to show to everyone that they are still strong. He stressed that since the military already knows of these plans, the AFP is prepared for any eventuality. [end recording]

Military Reportedly Uncovers Plot
HK1503033989 Manila Far East Broadcasting
Company in English 2300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] The military has uncovered a communist insurgent plot to create a nationwide disturbance on March 29 to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the New People's Army [NPA]. The discovery was made following the capture of 28 top rebel personalities in a series of raids conducted by military operatives from March 11-13 in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, and in San Fernando, Pampanga. Armed Forces spokesman Colonel

Oscar Florendo said two truckloads of subversive documents and equipment were also seized during the raids on NPA safehouses. He said one of the captured documents revealed that the insurgents are going to create a military disturbance on their anniversary on March 29, which is the day after the barangay election. There are close to 41,000 barangays all over the country whose councillors set to be elected. [sentence as heard]

Diplomatic, Military Nominations Confirmed
*HK1603043389 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 16 Mar 89 pp 1, 8*

[By David C. Borje]

[Text] The Commission on Appointments confirmed the appointments of 20 presidential appointees headed by Narcisa L. Escaler as ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva and Ramon Diaz as envoy to Canada in its last plenary session yesterday.

But the commission, with Senate President Jovito R. Salonga presiding as chairman, bypassed the promotional appointment of eight colonels in the Armed Forces with a stern warning that henceforth it will scrutinize strictly the assets and liabilities of military officers recommended for promotion to weed out corrupt and incompetent officers.

Sen. Mamintal Tamano, chairman of commission's national defense committee, said that in the cases of the eight bypassed officers, the committee needs more time to look into their records.

The commission also asked the executive branch to submit again the names of the bypassed officers for further deliberation or their ranks will be reverted to lieutenant colonel.

Escaler, former appointments secretary of President Corazon Aquino, was confirmed as chief of mission, Class I, ambassador, along with Diaz, former chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government as chief of mission, Class II, ambassador to Canada.

Also confirmed, were the appointments of Amado P. Cortez, foreign service officer, Class II, San Francisco, California;

Colonels Visayas Begonia, Mariano Escalona, Maunara Lantud, Antonio Lopez, Ramon Martinez, Guillermo Marquez, Leandro Mendoza, Manuel Suarez, Pedro Marquez, all of the Army.

Colonels Nilo Villafior, Cresencio Villanueva Jesus Almaden Jr., Gamurano Dimalatang and Ibarra Mariano, all of the Constabulary;

Colonels Heroberto Carillo and Miguel Reyes of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] dental service, and Navy Capt. Erlindo Erolin.

Three senators—Leticia R. Shahani, Juan Ponce Enrile and Edgardo Angara abstained in the case of Cortez who they said prejudiced 84 career foreign service officers who were senior to the nominee.

In the cases of Escaler and Diaz, only Enrile abstained, he said, to be consistent, in his argument in favor of career officers in the foreign service. Escaler, Diaz and Cortez were political appointees. Enrile added, however, that the nominees deserved the confirmation.

Bypassed from promotional appointment to colonel were Ferdinand Lagman, Santiago Veloso, Rodolfo Garcia, Renato Aguda, Tarciano Martinez and Antonio Sierra, all of the PC [Philippine Constabulary], and Lazaro Cristobal and Lusito Ramos of the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] medical corps.

The committee explained that the appointments of Cristobal and Ramos were bypassed on complaints of officers who said they were senior to the appointees and were more deserving of promotion.

The Tamano committee set for April 12 deliberations on the promotional appointments of the eight nominees if resubmitted for confirmation by the executive branch before that date.

Further on Nominations

*HK1503063389 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog
0600 GMT 15 Mar 89*

[Text] The Commission on Appointments today approved the nominations of three foreign service officers, namely: Narcisa Escaler as ambassador to the United Nations; Ramon Diaz as ambassador to Canada; and Amado Cortez as foreign service officer II in San Francisco. Senator Juan Ponce Enrile abstained from voting. Details from Jojo Ismael:

[Begin recording] Three members of the commission abstained from voting on the nomination of Cortez as foreign service officer II, and they included Senators Leticia Ramos Shahani and Edgardo Angara. Shahani said the growing number of political appointees has caused widespread demoralization in the foreign service due to the discontent of some foreign service officers whose promotions have been stalled.

Meanwhile, Cuenco replied that Cortez will be the last political appointee to be confirmed by the commission, but added that the rule does not apply to ambassadors whose appointments are presidential prerogatives. Cuenco made this assertion to employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

This is Jojo Ismael reporting for Philippine Broadcasting System News from the Executive House. [end recording]

Ramos Says Amnesty Program Still Under Study
HK1403124389 Quezon City Radyo GMA 7
Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT
14 Mar 89

[From "GMA NEWS" program; slantlines indicate passages in English]

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today said that the issue on government amnesty for insurgents is still under study and the Defense Department will have to make a recommendation. He stressed that the presidential amnesty needs Congress' approval. Earlier the president issued an executive order [EO] granting amnesty to communist insurgents who have been fighting the government for over 20 years.

Secretary Ramos also said that the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] authorities are studying a separate amnesty program for renegade military officers.

[Begin recording] [Ramos] /With regard to the military offenders who are charged under the articles of war, this is being studied by the Armed Forces of the Philippines./

[Reporter] /So there will be a separate EO or policy?/

[Ramos] /It is being studied. Whether there will be or not, it's being studied, and we still have to make recommendations to the president./

[Reporter] Sir is there any basis to reports claiming that the rightist rebels have been overpassed?

[Ramos] There is no basis to that. /But what is important to remember is that anyone who is interested in amnesty must express his intention to apply for it, and there is a form now. Secondly, a pledge of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines./ [end recording]

Meanwhile, Secretary Sedfrey Ordonez today admitted that there is no new amnesty program being prepared. He said that EO 350 issued by Malacanang is the same peaceful attraction policy by the government. Ordonez said the amnesty program which was supposed to expire in February 1987 was extended by President Aquino to one more year, and whatever extension herewith would need congressional confirmation. EO 350 states that certificates will be issued to insurgent returnees.

Amnesty Offer Details Given
HK1503093589 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY
GLOBE in English 14 Mar 89 pp 1, 8

[By staff writer Ros Manglangit]

[Text] President Aquino signed yesterday an executive order formally renewing the government's amnesty offer to communist rebels.

The order, however, excluded from the amnesty offer top communist leaders and members who are facing charges or under criminal investigation and fugitive right-wing extremists in the military.

The order was in line with Mrs. Aquino's call for reconciliation.

Last month the President called on left-wing and right-wing extremists to lay down their arms and avail of the amnesty program subject to the basic condition that they should first admit their crime.

Executive Order No 350 which Malacanang issued yesterday, resumed the 1986 amnesty program for left-wing dissidents which expired on February 27, 1988 after accommodating an estimated 7,000 members of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] and its military wing the New People's Army [NPA] and about 40,000 of their sympathizers and followers.

The order, however, gave the condition that the amnesty will still be subject to approval by Congress which is empowered by the Constitution to pass on any amnesty law by a simple majority.

Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said yesterday that the Executive Order 350 will be to classify and identify rebels who will be accommodated under the new amnesty plan until such time that a permanent law is passed by Congress.

Ramos said that the most important feature of the order is the documentary requirement from applicants who wish to avail of the amnesty.

Ramos clarified that right-wing extremists in the military who are in hiding will be covered by a new amnesty program if the President and Congress so desire.

Mrs. Aquino, interviewed earlier in the day by reporters, was erroneously quoted as saying that right-wing extremists in the military will be covered by the new amnesty offer.

While the new order opens the amnesty applications to thousands of leftists, principally identified with the CPP-NPA, it excluded those who have not been in custody of, charged by or undergoing investigation by government authorities for crimes committed in the furtherance of political beliefs.

The order outlined the various procedures that will be followed by government agencies in accepting the application of rebels.

Among them are:

Submission of written manifestation of the desire to avail of the amnesty to be filed with any military or local civilian office.

A written pledge of loyalty to the Constitution, to be attested to by a provincial governor or municipal mayor.

A written certification that the applicant has not committed any crime or offense punishable by law.

The order also organized in each province and city a reconciliation processing committee to be composed of the governor or mayor, the fiscal, provincial commander, a representative of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and a representative of the provincial or city peace and order council.

According to defense and military officials the amnesty offer is merely a continuation of the National Reconciliation Development Program which Mrs. Aquino launched in 1986 but which expired last year.

When the program expired, the government has been without any law governing the application of rebels who have expressed their desire to return to the fold of the law.

Maceda, Enrile Favor Move

HK1403141789 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Senator Ernesto Maceda favors amnesty for renegade soldiers Reynaldo Cabautan and Gregorio Honasan. According to him, rightist elements should be included in the amnesty program. Senator Juan Ponce Enrile supports this position.

[Begin Maceda recording in English] As a general principle I am in favor of amnesty for everybody, and not only for leftists but also for soldiers, including Honasan himself. Because the more people who return, or come out of hiding and say that they are now willing to work with the government, and that they are applying for amnesty, that's a positive development. Now, I just hope that those who are being given amnesty will be given enough attention and support to enable them to readjust back to a normal life. [end recording]

Renegade Gen Zumel Denies Surrender Plans

HK1403100389 Manila Manila Broadcasting
Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 14 Mar 89

[Text] Renegade Brigadier General Jose Maria Zumel criticized military officials headed by General Honesto Isleta for spreading misinformation about his plans to surrender. In a recorded message sent to DZRH, Zumel claimed that there was no truth to Gen Isleta's announcement that he was planning to turn himself in. Zumel also asserted that he had nothing to do with uprisings and attacks to topple the Aquino government.

Here is the message sent by Brig Gen Jose Maria Zumel to DZRH.

[Begin Zumel recording in English] The supposed spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] has unfairly and unjustly accused me of being involved in various so-called destabilization activities. They have accused me of being involved in the bombing of the PMA [Philippine Military Academy] grandstand in 1987. They have accused me of being a party to a raid of a PC [Philippine Constabulary] armoury in Camp Crame in 1988. They have accused me of complicity in the counterfeiting of currencies, supposedly to contribute to the destabilization movement.

All these I deny. These are nothing but propaganda of the first order that can only come from those who are mentally dishonest. The latest canard coming from Isleta is my alleged aborted surrender a few days ago.

The report about my surrender is a lie and Isleta knows that indeed it is a lie. Surrender is farthest from my mind. I have never sent any surrender feelers to anyone at anytime, now or in the past. Honesty has always been one of the keystones of my character. Sad to say, honesty does not seem to be in the limited vocabulary of Mr Honesto Isleta.

The incident that Isleta is talking about happened almost a year ago today but not the way Isleta tells it. Truth to tell, when my beloved mother passed away in March of last year, a priest approached my family and offered assistance so that I might be able to pay my last respects and say prayers for the repose of her soul. The priest informed me that in the spirit of reconciliation, Isleta and Gen De Villa had offered to issue to me a safe conduct pass. That pass was to be handed to me at the [word indistinct] Church in Quezon City.

Instead, Isleta and General Kintanar of the Intelligence Service and their men were lurking in the darkness, waiting to arrest me. That was trickery. In my moment of grief, I was a victim of their betrayal.

Isleta, De Villa, Kintanar and I are all graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. I would like to think that, although some were academically inferior to others, the tradition of honesty, integrity and fair play would have taken roots in all of us. It seems, however, that they did not take root in the scoundrels among us PMAers. It is unfortunate that some senior officers of the AFP who were swept into their present positions after Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] do not know the meaning of integrity. Maybe this is what Edsa had done to them. It is sad but true.

Lastly, I call on you, fellow soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, who still value decency and honor to keep your faith as we continue to fight for justice and truth for our people. God bless us all.

Sincerely yours,
Jose Maria Zumel [end recording]

Meanwhile, Gen Honesto Isleta, chief of the Armed Forces civil relations service, today announced that he was prepared to conduct talks with renegade Air Force Brig Gen Jose Maria Zumel. At the same time, he denied accusations that he had tried to have Zumel arrested.

This was General Isleta's reaction to Zumel's charges that he, along with AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General de Villa and AFP Intelligence Chief Gen Galileo Kintanar, laid a trap to arrest Zumel 4 months ago. Isleta explained that he had no intention of resorting to treachery to capture Zumel. He recalled an agreement for him to meet Zumel in a seminary in Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City following the death of Zumel's mother. Isleta claimed that he went to the meeting place at 2100 that night and waited until 0300 the next morning, but Zumel never showed up, forcing him to cancel the meeting.

Isleta stressed that he was prepared to conduct talks with Zumel and that a safe conduct pass will be issued to the renegade soldier anytime he asks for one. Isleta further urged Zumel to contact him by phone or through a third party.

ICO Meeting Said Not To Discuss MNLF Bid

HK1403075389 Baguio City Mountain Province
Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
14 Mar 89

[Text] The Moro National Liberation Front's [MNLF] bid for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference [ICO—Islamic Conference Organization], or OIC, will not be discussed in the 4-day 18th Islamic conference of foreign ministers which started yesterday in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. This was disclosed by Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] spokesman George Loriado. He said that the MNLF has not filed with OIC Secretary General Dr Hamid al-Gabid the MNLF's bid for membership in the 46-member body.

The spokesman said Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mauyag Tamano and Director General for the Department of Foreign Affairs Office of Middle East and African Affairs, Pacifico Castro will be part of the Philippine team that will monitor the proceedings of the sessions chaired by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal.

Since the MNLF which has not filed its bid for membership in the OIC, Loriado reiterated the Philippine Government's assessment that the MNLF's application will not be given due course because the charter of the OIC itself provides that only Muslim states are eligible for membership. [sentence as heard]

The Philippine Government has received assurances that the OIC is committed to the resolution of the problems of Muslims in southern Philippines within the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the Philippines. The Philippine Government, for its part, has reassured

the OIC members that the Philippine Government is implementing the Tripoli Agreement in accordance with its constitutional passages as provided in the agreement itself. The Philippine Government has further reassured the OIC member states that Muslims in the Philippines enjoy religious freedom and are being treated equally.

Misuari Pleads MNLF Case

HK1603043989 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE
in English 16 Mar 89 p 8

[Text] Chairman Nur Misuari of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) has directly asked the 46-member Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization] to grant the MNLF full membership.

In a 26-page speech during the plenary session of the 18th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers in Riyadh on Tuesday, Misuari said once the MNLF becomes an OIC member he was confident the Government will "inshallah come to the Conference table and grant full and genuine autonomy (for Mindanao) in six months time."

He also warned that if autonomy is not granted soon, "the Philippines will disintegrate, with Visayas emerging as another sovereign and independent state."

Reacting to Misuari's renewed call for the secession of Mindanao, Press Secretary Teodoro Benigno said "the Philippines cannot yield an inch of its political sovereignty and territorial independence."

Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Misuari's speech "reflects his idealism," but not one "rooted in reality, but fantasy."

"He takes as truth things that we here take as rumors," Manglapus said of Misuari's claim that there was a movement for an Independent Visayas.

In his speech, a copy of which was sent by the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh to the home office yesterday, Misuari claimed that an unnamed leader of the "liberation movement of the Visayas" had sent him a message saying that "once we establish our provisional government in Mindanao, they will immediately declare their own republic in the Visayas."

Misuari also claimed that President Aquino has now "virtually become a puppet in the crafty hands of Defense Minister Fidel Ramos, her so-called savior from the failed coups."

Misuari said Mrs. Aquino has "become so weakened morally," adding that "her inexperience and inherent weakness have contributed to her misery and caused her to fall under the evil influence of her political and military advisers as well as the powerful sectarian, economic, military and foreign pressure groups."

In appealing for membership, Misuari said there was "no legal or moral impediment that can be successfully involved" to deny the MNLF admission to the OIC.

Benigno said the Cabinet cluster committee on political and national security affairs met in Malacanang yesterday morning to counter renewed anti-Government propaganda efforts of Misuari.

Misuari Said Ready To Resume Peace Talks
HK1703133789 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog
1300 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] Chairman Nur Misuari today announced his readiness to discuss the resumption of peace talks with the government. Misuari made the announcement after the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] rejected for the second time, the MNLF's application for membership. Last year, the MNLF's bid for membership into the ICO was also turned down.

However, Misuari claimed that any peace talks will have to be held in a foreign country and under the auspices of the ICO.

Earlier, the ICO passed a resolution expressing its disappointment over the Philippine Government's inaction over the plight of Muslims in Mindanao. However, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said that the resolution should not cause much concern because it was less harsh than last year's resolution on the same subject. At the same time, he reiterated the Philippine Government's commitment to adhere to the constitutional provisions on the granting of autonomy to Mindanao. [passage omitted]

Thailand

Likely U.S. Trade Retaliation Targets Designated
BK1703024189 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] The US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association (PMA) and the International Intellectual Property Alliance (IIPA) have requested the US Trade Representative [USTR] to mark Thailand as one of the five possible targets of trade retaliation under Section 301 of the Omnibus Trade Act, government sources said yesterday.

PMA reportedly has rated Thailand third on the list of countries which have violated the US pharmaceutical patents.

But in general, Thailand has been listed not very high on the USTR's list of "culprits". The sources said Japan, India, Brazil, South Korea and Taiwan have been listed as the most likely targets for trade retaliation.

The law requires the USTR to identify trading partners who are allegedly engaged in "unfair trade practices" and submit a report of their alleged violations to the Congress every year. Then it must initiate negotiations with those countries within 30 days to resolve the dispute and if the negotiations fail, the USTR must recommend to the President to exercise his power under Section 301 against those trading countries.

Unfair trade practices cover encroachments on US property rights, inadequate market access for US goods and services and abuse of labour.

Citing official reports from Washington, the sources said that apart from the two associations' petitions, a move is also under way for US computer software companies and organizations to file a lawsuit in the Thai court seeking interpretation of the Thai copyright law whether it covers protection of computer software.

The sources voiced concern that even if the Thai court rules in favour of the US companies—that the computer software is also under copyright protection—the US may press on by asking for a retroactive arrangement for US goods.

The US enjoys legal protection under the copyright law when it becomes signatory of the Berne Convention. The Thai side has maintained that like other signatories, the protection should be effective when the US membership becomes effective. However, the US demands that it should be retroactive because the legal yardstick should be the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Yet, the most outstanding issue is the dispute over the patent protection of US pharmaceutical products in Thailand. Initially, the US demanded that Thailand amend the patent law before the end of 1990 to cover pharmaceutical products, but the Thai side has maintained that it will make the move only after the present Uruguay Round of multi-lateral trade talks have set the norms and standard on patent protection.

Meanwhile, Thailand and the US have started negotiations on interim administrative measures to protect new US pharmaceutical products. The main point of contention is the practical length of protection and the methodology involving the registration of pharmaceutical recipes.

The Public Health Ministry has maintained that the length of protection should be around 18 months but the US wants five-year protection.

Representatives of the PMA recently approached the ministry asking for its latest position on the issue. The consultations between the Thai Food and Drug Administration and the PMA representatives, however, ended inconclusively, according to a senior official of the administration.

PMA reportedly gave the Public Health Ministry until March 15 to come up with an "acceptable form" of protection for new US products. The PMA representatives then told the Thai side that it wants the Thai latest position for deliberation at an upcoming conference of its Far East representatives this month.

Another major issue is the US call for the scrapping of the ban on US cigarette imports. Apparently aware of the risk of the US cigarette industry filing a petition with USTR against Thailand, Finance Minister Pramuan Sabhawasit hinted early this week that the government may lift the ban.

Embassy in U.S. Urges Flexibility

BK1703022389 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Mar 89 p 1

[Text] Thailand should show its flexibility in talks on the intellectual property right [IPR] issues with the United States to avoid being a retaliatory target of Section 301 action under the US Trade Act.

The message, conveyed to the Foreign Ministry by the Thai Embassy in Washington, came after the International Intellectual Property Alliance and the US Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association lodged separate complaints to the US Trade Representative that Thailand has failed to observe the IPR protection.

Reliable sources said the ministry was urged to ask the Government to cooperate with the US in areas which would be beneficial to Thailand, particularly the GATT talks in April.

Thailand, the ministry suggested, should adopt temporary measures to provide patent protection to US pharmaceutical products.

The US was also concerned that Thailand might introduce legislation to separate the computer software issue from the copyright law.

Minister Comments on Talks With Yeutter

BK1703104089 Bangkok TNA in English 0646 GMT
17 Mar 89

[Text] Bangkok, Mar. 17 (OANA-TNA)—The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has agreed to send farm experts and provide 68 million U.S. dollars aid for technology transfer and agricultural development in Thailand.

Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat, who returned yesterday [16 March] from the U.S. where he held talks with his U.S. counterpart Clayton Yeutter, said the aid was divided into 36 million U.S. dollars as a soft loan and another 32 million U.S. dollars as grant aid.

He said the funds will support 40 agricultural technology transfer projects under the supervision of his ministry including the elimination of aflatoxin contaminated from maize, sorghum and ground nuts to improve the quality of exports, and irrigation and drained [as received] projects in the northeast and the north province of Chiang Mai.

In addition, he said, the U.S. also welcomed to pay for Thai technicians who were sent to study and be trained in agricultural branches in the U.S.

The minister said that Mr. Yeutter praised Thailand for its advance in agricultural and industrial development and might visit Thailand to observe the developments.

He said he told Mr. Yeutter that the U.S. Farm Act had seriously affected Thai farmers and he hoped the renewal of the act in 1990 would not affect Thai farmers directly again.

The minister also quoted Mr. Yeutter as saying that he wanted to rid all kinds of agricultural subsidies. [sentence as received]

Propriety of U.S. Aid to Cambodians Questioned

BK1703023989 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Mar 89 p 8

[Editorial: "Will US Aid to Khmer Rebels Quicken Kampuchean Peace?"]

[Text] US Secretary of State James Baker has spelled out a two-pronged Indochina policy: stronger American pressure on Vietnam and an increase in financial support for Khmer resistance groups fighting the Vietnam-backed People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK). The timing of the US move seems strange.

When Baker wrote a personal note to Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila earlier this month, he made clear his support for Sitthi's endeavours towards a comprehensive settlement of the Kampuchean problem. Baker also reiterated a pledge that Washington would move slowly in its relations with Vietnam, even after a complete withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea.

Obviously, the Bush administration wants to flex its muscles in a show of resolve against the Vietnamese occupation. The appointments of Richard Armitage as Assistant Secretary of State for the Far East and Karl Jackson as deputy to Brent Scowcroft, the National Security Adviser, reinforce that view. Both Armitage, a former Assistant Defence Secretary for this region, and Jackson are advocates of ASEAN policy toward Kampuchea.

In testimony before a Senate committee Tuesday, Baker said the United States was ready to accept the Khmer Rouge as part of a Kampuchean government after a complete Vietnamese pullout. The latest US position is merely a

reaffirmation of its previous policy that the Khmer Rouge—minus genocidal leader Pol Pot—should not play a dominant role in a future Kampuchean government.

In fact, the Bush administration's decision to increase US aid to the non-communist Khmer resistance group is aimed at preventing the Khmer Rouge from overtaking the two weaker, non-communist, resistance groups. That is the least Washington can do to show its concern.

But coming at this juncture, an increase in American aid could pose a delicate problem, by providing the Vietnamese with a reason to keep troops in Kampuchea. Alternatively, the move could mean a protracted schedule for the Vietnamese troop withdrawal, if the Phnom Penh regime feels threatened by the US action. Vietnam has set September 1989 and 1990 deadlines for a withdrawal—the earlier date in the event of a political settlement, the other pledged without conditions.

On balance, the increased US aid could boost the bargaining position of resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk in future negotiations with the Phnom Penh government.

Khmer Talks, Chatchai's China Visit Viewed

BK1703014989 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Mar 89 pp 1, 2

[Text] Beijing—Leaders of the four Kampuchean factions will meet in France for an informal roundtable meeting probably in June, Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced yesterday.

The Kampuchean resistance leader hosted a luncheon for Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhavan and his official delegates at a government guesthouse.

Also present at the reception were Sihanouk's wife Princess Monique, Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan and Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Gen Chatchai yesterday played golf with Zhao Ziyang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. Today he will meet Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping.

After the reception, Sihanouk briefly told Thai reporters that he did not know when the third Jakarta informal meeting [JIM] would take place.

However, he said a roundtable meeting to be participated in by all four Kampuchean factions would be held in France.

The prince said he was not sure whether the meeting could be held in June.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila first suggested France as an appropriate site for future meetings among the four rival Kampuchean factions during the JIM II meeting in Jakarta last month. Sihanouk did not attend that meeting.

ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Sitthi later disclosed that Sihanouk told Thai delegates the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea would inform Phnom Penh they had accepted the international control mechanism agreed at JIM II.

The three resistance factions also agreed military aid to them should stop after the withdrawal of Vietnamese forces from Kampuchea, said ACM Sitthi quoting the prince.

ACM Sitthi said Sihanouk had coined a new name for the provisional coalition government of the four Kampuchean factions—"The National Union Government of Cambodia", if it is accepted by all the parties concerned.

The two other names—Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea which represents the three resistance factions and the People's Republic of Kampuchea which stands for the Phnom Penh regime—will be dropped, ACM Sitthi quoted the prince as saying.

According to ACM Sitthi, Sihanouk is ready to accept any situation which may happen in the future.

The prince is confident that he will get elected when there is a fair and free election in Kampuchea, and if he loses out to the Phnom Penh regime, he will accept the consequences, dismantle the resistance forces and allow Hun Sen to form a legitimate government, said ACM Sitthi.

He went on to say that he believes peace will be restored in Kampuchea no matter what the outcome of the general election.

Sihanouk will visit Indonesia on April 28 after which he will spend two weeks in Thailand and visit his people near the Thai-Kampuchean border.

ACM Sitthi also told reporters about his talk with his Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, yesterday for about an hour.

He said he briefed Qian about JIM II and was told by his Chinese counterpart Vietnam set one condition for the withdrawal of its troops from Kampuchea—that military assistance to the resistance be stopped.

At Jakarta, Vietnam had other conditions, causing doubt about a withdrawal by September as earlier pledged, Qian was reported to have said.

ACM Sitthi also said Beijing wanted to see a quadripartite coalition government to be formed in Kampuchea.

However, China cannot recognise Hun Sen because it is the puppet regime of Vietnam, he quoted Qian as saying.

Commenting on the recent setting up of a Supreme Council by the resistance factions, ACM Sitthi said the move shows the resistance is more unified and has made progress in attempts to resolve the Kampuchean problem.

The Phnom Penh government yesterday branded Sihanouk a hypocrite and traitor for announcing his partnership in a new military command with the Khmer Rouge, according to Phnom Penh's official SPK news agency monitored by REUTER.

"Sihanouk has been all the more clearly revealed as an active instrument of the Khmer Rouge held responsible for the massacre of three million Kampuchians," the agency said.

The agency warned that Sihanouk should take unspecified "proper moves before it is too late" for a political solution to the 10-year conflict.

Visit Called 'Great Success'

BK1703011789 Bangkok THE NATION in English
17 Mar 89 p 1

[By Toemsak C. Phalanuphap and Adisak Limprungsatthanakit in Beijing]

[Text] Leaders of the four Khmer warring factions will meet in Paris in June to continue trying to narrow their differences that doomed their informal talks in Jakarta last month, exiled resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday.

Sihanouk said a "Kampuchean Roundtable Meeting" is part of the so-called "France Informal Meeting" process.

Speaking after a working lunch with Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhavan, Sihanouk said he also said he will visit Thailand April 25-28 before proceeding to Indonesia.

At the luncheon, Sihanouk thanked Premier Chatchai for the continued Thai support for him and his anti-Vietnamese resistance movement. He also accepted Chatchai's invitation to a reception at his home in Soi Rajakru.

Chatchai reassured Sihanouk of Thailand's support and reiterated that the prince is the most suitable person to bring about a national reconciliation in Kampuchea.

Sihanouk stressed that he would like to see the presence of an international control mechanism to supervise the implementation of a political settlement agreement. He will not oppose the termination of external military assistance to his resistance movement after a complete Vietnamese military withdrawal.

He also renewed his call for the dissolution of both the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea and the Vietnamese-backed People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] in order to form a new four-party interim government, which he now calls National Union Government of Kampuchea.

The four parties will send senior officials to begin their working-group meeting in Paris next month to prepare for a summit of the four parties there in June.

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila, who accompanies Chatchai on a four-day China visit, said China is adamant that Sihanouk lead the four-party interim government and Beijing will not deal with Premier Hun Sen of PRK.

In a press conference after meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, Sitthi said that his discussion with Qian dealt with details on the Kampuchean conflict and found that Thailand and China still shared similar objectives and goals on this issue.

Sitthi hailed Chatchai's visit to China as a "great success."

China and Thailand agree that Vietnam must act on its pledge to complete its military withdrawal from Kampuchea by September without any other conditions other than the cessation of all external military [aid] to the Khmer resistance forces after all Vietnamese have completely left Kampuchea, Sitthi said.

In the afternoon, Chatchai played a round of golf with the Chinese Communist Party Chief Zhao Ziyang at Beijing Golf Club. The premier presented Zhao with a golf putter before the game.

Zhao told Chatchai he heard that Chatchai is a good golfer and wanted his advice. Chatchai's first advice was that golf was a strange game. "The more you play, the worse you become," Chatchai said. Zhao laughed.

In the evening Zhao hosted a private dinner for Chatchai at Daioyutai State Guesthouse.

Chatchai and his 143-member delegation, comprising mostly businessmen, are scheduled to return to Bangkok tonight.

PRC Chief of General Staff Ends Visit

BK1603144489 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5
in Thai 1300 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Army Commander and Acting Supreme Commander General Chawalit Yongchaiyut and Deputy Army Commander Wanchai Ruangtrakun saw off Chief of the PRC General Staff Chi Haotian and his delegation—which arrived in Thailand on 13 March as guests

of the Supreme Command Headquarters—at the Air Force Headquarters Airport this morning. The chief of the PRC General Staff and his delegation will proceed on to visit Pakistan.

Chief of the PRC General Staff Gen Chi Haotian's visit to Thailand was aimed at establishing good relations between the Thai and the PRC armed forces. He has attached importance to the Green Northeast Project, which is being carried out by the Army to help develop the Northeast. The PRC military will provide assistance for the Green Northeast Project, such as agricultural tools and machines, similar to what the U.S. Government had given to Thailand.

6,000 Evacuated Because of Vietnamese Shelling
BK1703024389 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
17 Mar 89 p 6

[Text] Ta Phraya—Two Border Patrol Police police were seriously wounded yesterday when Vietnamese artillery shells landed at their base in this district north of Aranyaprathet in Prachin Buri.

About 100 shells landed on three border villages, Ban Sa-ngae, Ban Chiang Kham and Ban Khok Thahan in Tambon Thap Sadet, from 8 a.m. yesterday following a clash between Vietnamese soldiers and Kampuchean People's National Liberation Front guerrillas near Ampil inside Kampuchea.

About 2,000 villagers were evacuated and given temporary shelter at Ban Khok Phek and Ban Krasang schools.

Three shells landed on a BPP base, seriously wounding Pvt Itsaraphon, Chatmontri, 21, and Pvt Somphon Suwannako, 22.

Task Force 122 commander Lt-Col Charuk Malai ordered his troops to fire smoke shells to warn the Vietnamese. The Vietnamese shelling stopped about 11 a.m.

At the Site 2 camp for Kampuchean refugees, about 10 kilometres further north, United Nations Border Relief officials evacuated about 4,000 women, children and the elderly to Site-3, which is about seven kilometres to the west for fear that the shelling might cause deaths or injuries among the refugees.

Opposition Says Corruption Rife in Government
BK1603030389 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
16 Mar 89 p 3

[Excerpt] The Government's seven months in office has seen a saga of foreign policy conflicts, corruption, financial ineptitude and a failure to distribute income, improve living standards and provide public safety, the Opposition said yesterday.

The Opposition staged a four-and-a-half-hour evaluation of the administration at Parliament yesterday saying it was an effort to discuss the nation's problems since there is only one three-month session of Parliament a year.

About 30 opposition MPs and their party leaders took turns to criticise the Government, and particularly Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawat distributed an Australian company risk report that warned official corruption is getting worse and could lead to a military-enforced change of government. The comparative risk report was prepared by Political & Economic Risk Consultancy, Ltd, and was presented by the Western Australian Development Corp.

It stated: "In the case of Thailand, corruption has escalated in the past year and shows signs of turning into a political issue. Rapid growth has brought infrastructure bottlenecks which, in turn, have led to an acceleration of big-ticket projects to meet future development needs. Unfortunately, these same projects are ripe for influence peddling and other forms of corruption which could become much more pervasive in 1989. Indeed, it has the potential to be used as an excuse by some, especially leading military figures, for a change in government." [passage omitted]

Vietnam

U.S. Intent To Aid Cambodian Opposition Criticized
BK1703072889 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT
18 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 18—"The United States' intention to give military aid to two opposition factions in Kampuchea is outdated and unconstructive," asserts the Army paper QUAN DOI NHAN DAN in a commentary today:

"It will only aggravate the present conflict and increase the danger of a prolonged civil war in the future", the paper says.

It continues:

"According to the US paper [THE] WASHINGTON POST, during his recent visit to China, US President George Bush requested the host country to help in solving the Kampuchea issue by ending its aid to the Khmer Rouge. He said that the United States was against the Khmer Rouge's comeback to power in Kampuchea. However, preventing such a danger does not mean allowing any outside intervention in the internal affairs of Kampuchea. Hence, providing military aid to the Sihanouk and Son Sann factions is not an exception, and the United States cannot claim the right to unilaterally meddle in the internal affairs of that country".

"The Kampuchean people themselves will be able to prevent the Khmer Rouge from returning to power without any outside interference. In fact, the People's Republic of Kampuchea is controlling the whole country, whereas the Khmer Rouge and other opposition factions are merely living on foreign aid and sanctuaries. The United States should realize this reality to avoid making any erroneous decision detrimental to the peace process in Kampuchea," QUAN DOI NHAN DAN says in conclusion.

Establishment of CGDK Defense Council Reported
BK1703072189 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0500 GMT 17 Mar 89

[Text] According to foreign sources, the three Cambodian opposition factions met in Beijing on 12 March and set up a so-called High Council for National Defense under the leadership of Mr Sihanouk. However, Sihanouk immediately stated that he did not have total control of the Khmer Rouge faction and that each party would retain certain autonomy rights.

Public opinion contends that at a time when the countries in the region are actively seeking a political solution to the Cambodian issue, this move will only create conditions for the genocidal Pol Pot clique's return to power and fan up the flames of conflict in Cambodia. The paper THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE has reported that despite the fact that the three factions held a joint news conference, serious differences continued to exist in the tripartite coalition and the setting up of the council was a wholly unconvincing effort to emphasize their unity.

Policy on Refugee Problem Explained
BK1703043189 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Unattributed "article": "Vietnam's Policy Toward the Refugee Problem"]

[Text] A preparatory meeting for the international conference on the question of refugees in Southeast Asia was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, last week with the participation of 28 countries and 7 international organizations. The international conference is scheduled in June. The delegation of Vietnam led by Mr Vu Khoan, assistant to the Vietnamese foreign minister, attended the preparatory meeting.

Recently, 75 Vietnamese people who had illegally left the country for Hong Kong returned to Hanoi. This is the first group of Vietnamese refugees who voluntarily repatriated with the permission of the Vietnamese Government, the Hong Kong administration, and the British Government. These voluntary returnees were welcomed by the Vietnamese authorities and enjoyed the leniency of the Vietnamese Government to be reunited with their families after undergoing necessary procedures. Officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR]

said that these repatriations open a new chapter in regional history. For her part, Ms (Dithy), a representative of the UNHCR who escorted these voluntary returnees acknowledged the kind reception and leniency of the Vietnamese Government and expressed her hope that the returnees will have a better life in their native land. Some economic establishments in Hanoi and other localities, with the state's encouragement, have worked out a plan to receive a number of returnees. A building enterprise in Hai Ba Trung District of Hanoi undertook to receive 11 of them.

The repatriation of these people is the result of negotiations and cooperation between Vietnam and the countries concerned and the UNHCR. This demonstrates Vietnam's goodwill toward the recipient countries, which confront numerous difficulties caused by Vietnamese who illegally left the country.

It is necessary to indicate the deep-rooted reason for the illegal departure of Vietnamese people. Forty years of war and constant natural calamities have weakened our economy, causing numerous socioeconomic difficulties for people. Meanwhile, hostile forces have attempted to destabilize Vietnam. For a long time, Vietnam has made it clear that its economic problems have given rise to the number of Vietnamese refugees while some Western countries continue to encourage the departure of boat people, considering them to be political refugees. At present, the West has branded them economic refugees and forced them to repatriate.

Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach has said that the question should be settled on a humanitarian basis and the complexity of the issue should be taken into account. For humanitarian reason, Vietnam will receive all Vietnamese refugees who voluntarily return home with financial assistance from the international community. These people will not be punished even though they left the country illegally. Vietnam is ready to negotiate and cooperate with all countries and the UNHCR to find an appropriate solution to the question on the principle of humanitarianism and the realities and conditions of Vietnam and the countries concerned. Vietnam's policy toward refugees remains unchanged as is evidenced both in the official statements and by its reception of the returnees.

UN Under Secretary General Pays 2-Day Visit
BK1603153589 Hanoi VNA in English 1510 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—R. Ahmed, under secretary general of the United Nations and special representative of the UN secretary, has paid a two-day visit to Vietnam.

While here, R. Ahmed exchanged views with Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co on the issues of mutual concern.

He was received by Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach on March 15.

R. Ahmed left here today for a visit to the People's Republic of Kampuchea.

Allegations of Pakistan Interference in Afghanistan
BK1703034589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
0015 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Unattributed report from "International Topics" program]

[Text] Fierce fighting is continuing in the strategic city of Jalalabad. Forces opposed to the the Afghan revolution have massed up to 15,000 troops, among them 3,000 Pakistani soldiers, and many kinds of modern weapons including cannons, ground-to-ground missiles, and anti-tank guns for an assault on the city. Many houses have been destroyed and large numbers of people have been killed or wounded. Armed clashes have also been reported in Towr Kham, (Shabahar), and Konarha, and tensions have mounted in many other Afghan provinces near the Pakistan border. Aside from the Pakistan troops, many U.S. military advisers have also taken part in the offensives.

The Afghan revolutionary army have dealt crushing blows to the opposing forces, firmly maintaining their positions. Jalalabad, an important strategic junction, has been successfully defended, and the enemy has suffered heavy losses.

World opinion is following the tense situation in Afghanistan with keen interest. India paper THE PATRIOT recently pointed out: Pakistan's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is cause for grave concern. Islamabad's policy runs counter to the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan and has shattered any hope for a solution to the situation around Afghanistan as envisaged in the accords. Citing irrefutable evidence, the paper said that the head of Islamabad's secret service, (Hamid Gul), recently sneaked into Konarha Province of Afghanistan to directly participate in the military activities of Afghan reactionaries. The paper stressed: Pakistani intervention will lead to dangerous consequences for the situation in South Asia as a whole. India cannot turn a blind eye on this matter.

In Great Britain, many mass rallies have taken place in London to show solidarity with the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and to condemn the hostile forces. The World Federation of Democratic Lawyers has sent a letter to the UN secretary general to voice its support for a peaceful solution to the Afghan conflict on the basis of the principles of self-determination and noninterference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

World opinion has also criticized the U.S. Government's stance of inciting Pakistan to meddle in Afghanistan's internal affairs. President Bush's current effort to pressure Congress to appropriate U.S.\$247 million in military aid to Pakistan in the next fiscal year is a continuation of former President Reagan's erroneous policy of turning Pakistan into a U.S. strategic base for realizing Washington's plan to dominate Southwest Asia militarily, a scheme that runs counter to the trend of our time.

U.S. Actions Condemned

BK1603141589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1430 GMT 15 Mar 89

[Unattributed "article": "Stop Criminal Intervention in Afghanistan"]

[Text] With the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the legal Government of Afghanistan and the opposition factions should have afforded all possibility of seeking a peaceful solution to the Afghan issue. However, the troop pullout has been exploited, thus further straining the situation in that country.

The senseless, fratricidal war has proceeded in a fierce manner and on a large scale. It has been reported that on 9 March, some 100 U.S. and Pakistani military advisers crossed the border and intruded into the Afghan Province of Nangahar to participate in the Afghan reactionary forces' raid on the strategic city of Jalalabad. On 10 March, a Pakistani jet fighter violated the airspace over Nangahar. On 11 March, a 15,000-man strong force, including 3,000 Pakistani soldiers, attacked Jalalabad with artillery fire, ground-to-ground missiles, and anti-tank weapons, killing and wounding many civilians.

Pakistani troops are now concentrating at the border with Afghanistan in an effort to assist the reactionary forces in launching new attacks on Afghanistan. All this is vivid evidence of the escalation of U.S.-Pakistani intervention in the Afghan people's internal affairs.

Not only acting in a way that runs counter to the Geneva accords, the United States and Pakistan also encouraged various Afghan opposition groups to set up the so-called interim government in exile and to use force to solve the Afghan issue, causing more death and bloodshed for the people of this country. The frantic acts of the other side are posing a serious threat to the independence and sovereignty of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Faced with this situation, the president of the Republic of Afghanistan sent letters to the UN secretary general, the chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the President of the United States calling for the adoption of necessary measures to stop the conflict and to ensure that the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan is fully implemented.

Everybody is well aware that the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have done their best to speed up the process of seeking a political solution to the situation around this country.

On 15 February, the Soviet Union completed the withdrawal of the last batch of its volunteer troops from Afghanistan strictly in compliance with the timetable and deadline stipulated in the Geneva agreement. Shortly after that, the Soviet Government issued a statement pledging to continue to help speed up a peaceful and comprehensive solution to the Afghan issue.

In its own statement on this occasion, the Afghan leadership, on the basis of the humanitarian policy of national reconciliation, called on all those concerned to analyze the situation lucidly and with a sense of responsibility, and expressed its readiness to enter into a dialogue with representatives of all opposition factions to settle all internal issues aimed at bringing an end to the bloodshed. The fact that the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan temporarily declared a state of emergency and set up the Supreme Military Council on 18 February, reshuffled the cabinet on 19 February, and formed the Standing Committee of the Council of Ministers on 21 February is part of its efforts along that line.

The goodwill demonstrated by the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and their desire to solve the Afghan issue peacefully with the aim of putting an end to the war that has dragged on for many years in this country have been supported and highly appreciated by public opinion.

Obviously, all acts of intervention from outside do not help restore peace in Afghanistan but add fuel to the flame of conflict and cause more sorrow and bereavement to the people in this country. Their policy of hostility and confrontation runs totally counter to the aspirations of the Afghan people and does not conform to the actual situation in the world at present. That policy is but an attempt to export war and bloodshed and also a gross violation of provisions of the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan.

World public opinion demands that the United States and Pakistan do as the Soviet Union does by fulfilling their obligations as a signatory to the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan, by ensuring that all provisions of the agreement are fully implemented, and by stopping their aid to the Afghan reactionary factions and letting the Afghan people decide their own destiny.

The People's Democratic Party and Government of the Republic of Afghanistan have urgently called on world public opinion to thwart the threat against the national rights of the Afghan people and interests of peace and security in the region. The Afghan people passionately

want to see an end to war and bloodshed. They do not need weapons and war; rather, they need peace and calmness to rebuild their country.

A policy that relies on force to interfere in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and ignore the aspirations of its people can only breed more crimes and cannot bring about what has been calculated by those advocating it.

Nguyen Co Thach Receives Canadian Delegation
BK1503153589 Hanoi VNA in English 1456 GMT
15 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 15—A delegation of the Canadian Ministry for External Affairs led by Arthur Perron, director general of its North Asia and the Pacific Department, made a working tour of Vietnam from March 11-15.

During its stay, the delegation, which also included Robert Wenman, member of the House of Commons and member of its Committee for External Relations, and a number of Canadian diplomats, was received by Nguyen Co Thach, vice chairman of the Council of ministers and foreign minister.

The guests met on separate occasions with representatives of the Vietnamese National Assembly's Commission for External Relations, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, External Economic Relations, Agriculture and Aquatic Products, and other offices. The hosts and guests exchanged views on international and regional questions of mutual concern, as well as possibilities of strengthening the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

CPV Central Committee Delegation Visits USSR
BK1603074689 Hanoi VNA in English 0700 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—A delegation of the Commission for Information and Training of the Vietnam Communist Party Central Committee led by Tran Trong Tan, member of the party Central Committee and head of the commission, has paid a 9-day official visit to the Soviet Union.

While there, the delegation had working sessions with the Ideological Commission of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Central Committee. They exchanged views on political renovation, the broadening of democracy and openness and the party policies on press and culture and arts in the process of renovation. The two sides worked out major orientation for promoting the Soviet-Vietnam cooperation in the domain of ideology in the coming period.

The delegation visited the Commission for External Relations of the CPSU Central Committee and several economic establishments.

It was received on March 13 by A.S. Kapto, member of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of its ideological commission.

Thailand's Desire for Cooperation Noted

BK1603153189 Hanoi International Service in English
1000 GMT 16 Mar 89

[Text] Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said his government wants to develop the northeastern area of the country into a center for tourist, industrial, and business cooperation with the three Indochinese countries. He said this part of Thailand has great economic potentials and is promising for trade links with the Indochinese countries. This strategy has just been drafted by the Thai Council of Socioeconomic Development.

Meanwhile, the External Relations Committee of the Thai House of Representatives on Monday [13 March] agreed to consider the establishment of the Thai-Vietnamese Friendship Association in an effort to improve bilateral relations. The same Thai committee is expected to visit Kampuchea later this month.

Vietnamese-Lao Provinces Promote Cooperation

BK1603080889 Hanoi VNA in English 0720 GMT
16 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16—A document on cultural and economic cooperation for the 1989-90 period between Nghe Tinh Province of Vietnam and Bolikham-sai Province of Laos was signed in the Lao province recently.

Under the document, reached during a March 6-11 visit to Bolikham-sai by a Nghe Tinh delegation led by Nguyen Van Gian, deputy secretary of the party committee and chairman of the people's committee of the province, the two sides would expand trade and goods exchange and enhance cooperation in industrial production, as well as communications and transport.

Stores, including food and drug stores, will be jointly set up in the two provinces even by individuals.

CIDSE Organization To Open Office in Hanoi

BK1403151989 Hanoi VNA in English 1449 GMT
14 Mar 89

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 14—The Vietnamese Government and the International Cooperation for Socio-economic Development (CIDSE) have agreed to set up the latter's office in Hanoi.

Since it established relations with Vietnam in 1978, CIDSE has given Vietnam U.S. dollars 14 million worth of aid, including 11 million for development and 3 million as emergency aid.

CIDSE is the first non-governmental organization to open its office in Vietnam.

N.V.L. Tells Press To Continue Fighting Negativism

BK1503124589 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese
1100 GMT 15 Mar 89

["Article" by "N.V.L." "sent to Voice of Vietnam recently" entitled: "Things That Must Be Done Immediately"]

[Text] In its 4 March 1989 issue, the paper DONG KHOI [SIMULTANEOUS UPRISINGS] of Ben Tre Province carried in its column "Dialogue With the Editorial Staff" the answer to a question by a reader named Tran Kim Ca, "If your editorial staff had to choose between publishing articles and reports on the fight against negativism and featuring writings on new factors, what would be your choice?"

The newspaper article said among other things: Recently, the comrade general secretary reminded the press to pay attention to bringing to light new factors to help promote further renovation in society. Some people are worried that the press may face additional difficulties in its drive for renovation. In our opinion, depending on the need of the moment our party may lay emphasis on different issues at different points of time. The idea here is how to enable the press to serve the renovation process with high efficiency. The choice to report on negativism or positivism, that is, the new factors, must depend on the specific moment and situation to obtain the best effect.

I would like to add a few words to clarify this matter. When I asked the press to pay attention to revealing new factors, that did not mean the struggle against negativism on the press should be toned down; on the contrary, my advice was meant to help the press to continue on with renovation more effectively. If the struggle against negativism in the press has the effect of curbing the evil phenomena in society, then discovering and supporting new factors are an act contributing to multiplying the good and rolling back the bad. The struggle against negativism and discovering and encouraging new factors in the press are two closely related aspects of the same question.

The struggle against negativism itself already contains new factors, and the new factors also imply an element of the struggle against negativism. The press must speak fully and truthfully of all the elements of the common trend of development. Struggling against the negative aspects is an effort aimed at untying the new factors and paving the way for their development. Discovering and encouraging the new factors are to help push back negativism. The duty of the press is to carry out renovation in a more open, more democratic, and more truthful fashion. It must not back out, nor must it tackle this task in a biased, one-sided manner. We have seen the bad effects and grave consequences of the bureaucratic

mechanism of management based on state subsidies. We have also witnessed the new vitality of the new young, vigorous sprouts that have appeared since the sixth party congress, especially since the advent of the resolution of the third plenum of the party Central Committee, Decision No 217 of the Council of Ministers, and Resolutions 10 and 16 of the Political Bureau.

In response to the articles "Things That Must Be Done Immediately," many central and local papers such as NHAN DAN, QUAN DOI NHAN, LAO DONG, TIEN PHONG, DAI DOAN KET, TUAN TIN TUC, TUAN TIN THANH NIEN, DAIU PHAT THANH, DAI TRUYEN HINH, SAIGON GIAI PHONG, and TUOI TRE have actively struggled against negativism. Now, the papers should continue their struggle against negativism; at the same time, they should support the new factors, thereby enabling the positive aspects that have appeared since the sixth party congress to become increasingly prevalent, to have a great impact on the situation, to roll back difficulties, and to promote stability so as to take the country forward. Only in so doing can the press really achieve renovation and actively contribute to renovating the country.

States Council Amends Import, Export Taxes
*BK1603153989 Hanoi VNA in English 1515 GMT
16 Mar 89*

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 16 (OANA-ECOVNA)—Today the State Council made public its decision to change the tax rates for imports and exports and an ordinance on amendments to the tax system for industrial and commercial commodities.

Export taxes are levied on 12 categories of commodity instead of 30 as before to encourage exports.

Minimal taxes applicable to the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (C.M.E.A.) and to favoured nations are imposed on only four categories of commodity, namely ferrous and non-ferrous metal scraps, semi-processed leather, and aquaria [as received].

Regarding import taxes, the general principle is to exempt taxes for all materials and equipment necessary for domestic industries.

With regard to small machines, materials and replacements which can be produced in Vietnam, they are taxed five to ten per cent.

With regard to consumer goods the import of which requires hard currencies like video cassette, motorbike and television set..., they are subjected to high tax rates in order to regulate consumption. Tobacco, wines and spirits, and beer are taxed 100 percent.

In general, the new industrial and commercial taxes are all reduced to boost economic activities.

Review of Tax Reform

*BK1703083089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0808 GMT
17 Mar 89*

[Text] Hanoi, March 17 (AFP)—Vietnam has reformed tax and excise regulations, lifting duties imposed on exports and imports of some products entirely, the official Vietnamese press reported Friday [17 March].

Taxes on industrial and commercial activities have been reduced in a bid to "give a new impetus to the economy," the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY said.

The Communist Party newspaper NHAN DAN said import duties had been lifted on material and equipment designed for industry but not on products that can be manufactured locally. Imports of such products will be subject to a duty of five to 10 percent, it said.

Taxes will be lifted on some products "to encourage exports," the newspaper said, adding that the move did not affect exports of oil, coal, iron, rubber, rice, grain and seafood.

However, taxes on imported luxury consumer items such as televisions, videocassette recorders and motorcycles, will be raised.

Tobacco and alcohol, notably beer, which the authorities are trying to cut down consumption, are hit with a 100 percent surcharge, NHAN DAN said.

The reforms were made "with the aim of encouraging exports of merchandise, to protect local products and to encourage imports of raw materials," it said.

The measures coincide with debt negotiations between Vietnam and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Settling its outstanding loans with the IMF is seen as necessary if Vietnam is to obtain new foreign loans.

The IMF has called for reforms in excise and tax practices in negotiations with indebted Third World countries, and for control of money supply.

On Monday, Vietnam's Central Bank devalued the dong by 28.6 percent against the dollar, fixing the exchange rate at 4,500 dong to the greenback.

It was the sixth recent devaluation and brought the official exchange rate closer to the blackmarket rate and should better allow the authorities to control the money supply, observers said.

The near absence of such controls has been one of the main causes of inflation, officially estimated at 200 percent but running closer to 700 percent to 1 000 percent according to experts.

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